

# Staffordshire Prepared



## The Newsletter of the Staffordshire Resilience Forum

Issue No: 16

Date: January 2011

### First SRF Information Sharing Forum acclaimed as a success!

Staffordshire Resilience Forum (SRF) partners met on Friday morning (14 Jan 11) at the Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford, for the first Information Sharing Forum.

The Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) arranged the half day forum in order to support Staffordshire Category 1 and 2 responders to comply with their legal duty under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to "share information".

Attendees listened to a number of short presentations on a range of subjects under the headings of Risk, Emergency Planning, Communication with the Public, Information Sharing and Co-operation; five of the main duties under the above Act.



**Laura Palmer from the Environment Agency and Sarah Moore from the CCU**

Speakers included members of the CCU, representatives from the Health Protection Agency, University Hospital of North Staffordshire, Staffordshire Police, British Red Cross, Staffordshire County Council and Environment Agency.

David Owen, Corporate Health and Safety Manager for Staffordshire Moorlands District Council commented **"This was a useful event which promoted best practice and opportunities for joint working."**

Principal Civil Contingencies Officer, Peter Taylor also added, **"We were delighted with the support from across Staffordshire partners and all being well the forum will be repeated in six months time."**

Lt Col Guy Chambers, Joint Regional Liaison Officer (Army) added, **"An excellent information sharing forum which provided a positive overview of all matters of resilience in Staffordshire. It is a must for a repeat."**

All Local Authorities and a good number of NHS trusts in Staffordshire were represented at the meeting as were the voluntary sector and other resilience partners. At the end of the forum delegates were encouraged to share the information provided as widely as possible within their own organisations.



The Information Sharing Forum held by Staffordshire Resilience Forum (SRF) provided a great opportunity for both category 1 and 2 responders to share knowledge and align emergency planning arrangements for the County. As a Category 2 responder South Staffs Water (SSW) recognises how vital it is during an emergency to be able to communicate effectively with other responders in the County and these forums provide an ideal opportunity to network and put faces to the names that are regularly seen in emails. The forum also provided the opportunity for responders to promote the expertise and resources that are available which can be drawn upon during an emergency.

"I shall be making good use of the new contacts made during the information sharing forum to ensure that SSW uses the information and resources that are already available in the County to further enhance our emergency plans. I'd certainly like to promote what resources SSW can offer in return at the next forum."

**Kate Wilkes**  
Resilience and Security Manager  
South Staffs Water

## Exercise Saredon 2 takes place!

A table top exercise, Exercise Saredon 2, took place on 16 Dec 10 at SI Group, Four Ashes, South Staffordshire. It was designed to comply with COMAH regulations which require the Local Authority Offsite Emergency Response Plan to be exercised and validated every three years.

The exercise designed and facilitated by the CCU saw representatives from the Emergency Services, the site operators, Local Authorities, Health Agencies, Highways Agency, Network Rail, Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive presented with a realistic scenario which had offsite effects. Participant responses were then tested against the relevant agency plans to ensure accuracy and relevance.

Assistant Area Commander Mick Jahn, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, who was present commented: ***'the exercise brought together all of the potential responding emergency services and gave us an opportunity to closely scrutinise our own individual plans and check that all plans worked together logically and effectively. This will ensure that emergency services and other responding organisations can respond to the site in a planned co-ordinated manner.'***

### Recovery Plan out for Consultation

As part of the CBRN project in 2010, members of the SRF were tasked with planning for the response to, and recovery from a CBRN incident. A decision was made for the output from the planning for the recovery phase to be incorporated into the already existing Staffordshire Recovery Plan. A multi-agency planning group chaired by Staffordshire County Council began by assessing the Staffordshire Recovery Plan, and a number of changes were made to ensure the desired foundation for CBRN-specific recovery planning.

The Staffordshire Recovery Plan now comprises of two parts:

- Part One: Generic Recovery
- Part Two: Contingency Specific Recovery

The revised draft plan is now out for consultation to a wide audience of over 50 organisations, and the consultation period closes on 31 January 2011.

For more information on the Recovery Plan please contact Ellie Gatrill-Smith on 01785 898620 or [e.gatrill-smith@staffordshireprepared.gov.uk](mailto:e.gatrill-smith@staffordshireprepared.gov.uk).

### Your Guide to Dealing with the Unexpected



The CCU will be showcasing some of the resilience work that Staffordshire partners do on 8 Feb 11 for local media colleagues and news publications.

With assistance from our partners, such as, Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Environment Agency we will be raising awareness of the Guide which will be available on [www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk).

For more information please contact Megan Harris on 01785 898617 or [m.harris@staffordshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:m.harris@staffordshirefire.gov.uk).

**Staffordshire Resilience Forum is now on Twitter so for up to date information on resilience in Staffordshire and how you can prepare yourselves for emergencies follow us @StaffsPrepared.**



### Regional Animal Health Communications Workshop

**Representatives from Staffordshire County Council and Stoke on Trent City Council Animal Health participated in a workshop in Birmingham on Wed 12 Jan 10.**

The exercise, arranged by the Animal Health Agency and facilitated by Andy Marshall, CCU, involved representatives from the four Local Resilience Forums in the West Midlands region. The purpose of the event was to establish the basic national communication arrangements for an Animal Health incident and to promote greater understanding of the existing arrangements in the region.

Edwina Thirkell, Regional Director and Adrian Rogers, Head of External Communications, Animal Health Agency, gave presentations and delegates were then invited to work through a realistic scenario in order to understand the complex issues involved in responding to and recovering from an animal disease incident.

Andy Marshall Director of Staffordshire Civil Contingencies said ***"A large number of risks on the Staffordshire Community Risk Register have some connection with animal health issues and it is important that we are prepared to respond to any major outbreak. We have learned a great deal and along with the follow up work, both Staffordshire and the West Midlands region will have clear communications arrangements for such incidents."***

## Users to the National Resilience Extranet are growing!

The National Resilience Extranet has now passed the two thousand user mark. The roll out of the system continues to progress well, with the user base now coming from over 450 different organisations – almost half of the organisations that make up the UK Resilience community. Responders on the NRE from Staffordshire include the CCU, University Hospital North Staffordshire and Staffordshire County Council.

### NATIONAL RESILIENCE EXTRANET



### Staffordshire Responds to Severe Weather



During the recent spate of bad weather the CCU, and in particular the CCU Duty Officer, had to coordinate a number of requests for assistance across Staffordshire. These requests came from a number of acute trusts, community health and social care teams and involved supporting some of the most vulnerable people in the communities or maintaining staffing of key services such as a very busy A and E Department. The CCU called on the services of the Voluntary Sector, in particular Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team (SSART) and Peak District Mountain Rescue Team.



Over the worst of the weather SSART alone covered more than 650 miles getting essential support to where it was needed most.

### Exercise Hands Up!!

**Exercise Hands Up, a no notice telephone exercise for the Voluntary Organisations was successfully run on Tuesday 23 November 2010.**

Megan Harris and Mel Page from the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU) contacted the Voluntary Organisations informing them of the Exercise scenario, asking them what level of response they could give to support the Category 1 responders.

It took two hours for all calls and resources to be received back at the CCU. Resources were available to deploy to the "Rendezvous Point" from 30 minutes to two hours from Peak District Mountain Rescue Organisation, RAYNET and Staffordshire Search and Rescue Team, to name a few.

### Exercise Dark Night

CCU staff successfully exercised the setting up of command post structures in total darkness on 25 Jan 11.

Director of Civil Contingencies Andy Marshall said, ***"It is most likely that during the winter months any live deployment of our command vehicle will be during the hours of darkness and it's essential that everyone in our team is able to competently and safely erect the structures at any time of the day and in any weather."***

More information available on [www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk).

### Exercise Mercury II Takes Place

Fri 21 Jan 11 was the day for the second in a series of exercises across the SRF aimed at testing the communications equipment operated across all Emergency Control Centres.

The exercise also brought in participants including the military as well as the voluntary organisation RAYNET. The equipment tested during the exercise were telephones, emails, facsimile, satellite telephone and RAYNET.

The initial results are looking promising. As expected there are some minor lessons that have been identified which will be taken forward to ensure all lead responders have robust communications equipment, processes and the confidence they will work during a time of crisis.

Mike White, the RAYNET County Controller said ***"This is the first time we have participated in an exercise of this type in our support role to the lead responders and we have found it very useful in how we can provide support in the future"***.



### Generic Reservoir Plan for Staffordshire progress

The Staffordshire Generic Offsite Reservoir Plan continues to progress, with a meeting of the Project Team scheduled to take place in early Feb 11.

The Plan has been drafted in accordance with national guidance and includes reference to the Reservoir Inundation Maps, created by the Environment Agency throughout 2009 and 2010.

The Plan will outline the generic response to the risk of Dam failure affecting any of the 45 large raised reservoirs in Staffordshire, and links closely to the Staffordshire Emergency Flood Plan, issued Sep 10.

For further details please contact Sarah Moore on 01785 898613 or [s.moore@staffordshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:s.moore@staffordshirefire.gov.uk).

## Training and Exercises – Updates for All Responders...

A lot has been going on for the Civil Contingencies Unit in delivering training and exercises to Category 1 responders in Staffordshire throughout the final months of 2010.



In the Raven series two tactical exercises have taken place, Nov 10 and Jan 11. They have been well attended by multi-agency partners. There are two Strategic exercises (10 & 17 Feb 11) and one tactical exercise (15 Mar 11) planned in the current series and dates for 2011 / 12 will be circulated in due course. Book your place at [www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk) early to avoid disappointment!

**Exercise Amber Light** took place on 16 Nov 11. This was a joint Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Civil Contingencies Unit live exercise. The exercise was based on, flooding, a real local risk based scenario, the activation of a rest centre and rest centre management team to accept a number of displaced residence. The CCU provided supporting officers and the Mobile Command Unit to provide communications facilities at the rest centre.



Six delegates have taken part in a selection of the **Strategic Leader** based exercise/coaching sessions, Exercise Ivor, Fowl Play and Big Bird.

The **Director level Exercise Ivor** has also been provided to five Local authority delegates.

Ellie Gatrill-Smith delivered **Civil Contingencies Act Awareness Training** to 17 Newcastle Borough Council delegates with an additional 14 undertaking Business Continuity Management Training.

Whilst at South Staffordshire District Council Sarah Moore delivered **Director on Call Training** to eight members of the Strategic Management Team including the Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive.

As ever there are a number of training courses and exercises planned for the upcoming months and can also be planned for your individual organisations. Visit [www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk) for more information or contact Steve Hill, Training and Exercise Coordinator, on 01785 898687 or e-mail [sl.hill@staffordshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:sl.hill@staffordshirefire.gov.uk).

### Exercise Hardcastle 2011

The SRF is conducting an exercise on 24 Feb 11, known as Exercise HARDCASTLE; with the aim to testing Multi Agency Interoperability and the resilience of Airwave communications at both Strategic and Tactical level in a simulation of a Major incident. This exercise in part of the work being carried out by the Airwave Interoperability Group chaired by Staffordshire Police and attended by Airwave users in Staffordshire including some regional partners.



### Exercise Aardvark is a go at Staffordshire County Council

**Staffordshire County Council undertook a major incident exercise based on a scenario involving a major rail crash on the west coast main railway line on 17 Jan 11.**

The exercise, involving County Council staff, supported by officers from the CCU, was undertaken to test the County Council's plans and ensure that they continue to be effective in dealing with the response to a major incident.

