

Staffordshire Prepared



The Newsletter of the Staffordshire Resilience Forum

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London 2012 Olympics

This week marks 'one year to go' to the Olympics in 2012 taking place in UK. The Olympic Games will take place from 27 Jul – 12 Aug 11 and the Paralympic Games take place from 29 Aug – 9 Sep 11.

One of the big events to take place in Staffordshire will be Stoke-on-Trent holding an Olympic Torch evening celebration on 30 May 11.

The Olympic Flame will travel to within an hour of 95 per cent of people in the UK, Isle of Man, Guernsey and Jersey during the 70-day Olympic Torch Relay. It will enable local communities to shine a light on the best their area has to offer – from breathtaking landscapes to dynamic urban areas.

Vanessa Darlington, Stoke-on-Trent Olympics Co-ordinator at Stoke-on-Trent City Council, said: *"The Olympic Torch Relay is an event like no other and is of a size and scale that will take meticulous attention to detail and planning. Stoke-on-Trent City Council has established a multi-disciplinary Community Task Force made up from agencies and organisations who have agreed to provide support services for the Olympic Torch Relay. The purpose of the Community Task Force is to co-ordinate all aspects of the planning for the community-level Evening Celebration."*



Jane Sawyers, Staffordshire Police, said *"We've been working very closely with our partners across the county, including colleagues at Stoke-on-Trent City Council to ensure that citizens can enjoy the 2012 summer of celebration in safety and security."*

Individual organisations are being asked to consider the implications of London 2012. Whether this is reviewing business continuity plans for staff shortages, due to an increase in staff leave, for holidays, to attend or volunteering to help during London 2012. Could an influx of people attend your district for the torch relay? Would this have an impact on travel and emergency arrangements?

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Information Sharing Forum – 8 July 2011



Staffordshire Resilience partners once again met on Friday 8 July 11 at the Gatehouse Theatre in Stafford to share information on civil contingencies and emergency preparedness.

Feedback from attendees was extremely positive for this opportunity, to not only comply with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (to Share Information) but also to understand the complex agenda that all partners are currently engaged in. Speakers included Alan Carr from Staffordshire County Council on Climate Change, Vera Bloor, Staffordshire Police on the 2012 planning and Karen Wooley from the Federation of Small Businesses.

Andy Marshall, Director of Civil Contingencies, added *"This event allowed everyone involved to network and obtain key updates on resilience in Staffordshire. The next event is already in the diary for Thursday morning, 12 January 2012 at Keele Hall, Keele University."*

Exercise DARNAY – how would our community respond to a CBRN incident?

As you are probably aware, there is a new Staffordshire Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Plan, and a revised Staffordshire Recovery Plan which have been developed over the last year or so. The question of whether the plans are now fit for purpose for a CBRN incident in Staffordshire is set to be answered through an exercise planned for 3 and 5 Oct 11.

The exercise, led by Staffordshire Police and the CCU, will involve key organisations testing the plans, and will seek to identify any lessons, gaps or changes to the plans in order to ensure they are as usable and valid as possible.

In preparation for this exercise, and other recovery exercises in the future, the CCU are in the process of developing an e-learning package for Recovery, which is intended to make training and awareness-raising more accessible to a wider audience. This is intended to be available on STEP (Staffordshire E-learning Portal), so organisations who wish to get themselves up to speed on Recovery and the Staffordshire Recovery Plan will be invited to enrol with STEP (run by Staffordshire County Council) and complete a Recovery module.

Forward Planning Reservoir Exercise 2013

The Staffordshire Emergency Flood Plan was last tested in November 2009 at Exercise WHITE WATER. As per the training and exercise schedule detailed in the Plan it should be tested again in November 2012. However, due to Olympic planning and the events taking place in 2012 it has been provisionally agreed by the SRF Ops Meeting to hold the next exercise in early 2013.

It is also proposed that the exercise will test different areas of the SEFP and take on a wider scope than Ex WHITE WATER incorporating the activation of a South Staffs Water on-site Reservoir Plan and the Staffordshire Generic Off-site Reservoir Plan, amongst others.

More detail is yet to be submitted to the SRF Ops Meeting but it is hoped that some of the exercise would take the form of live play and be no longer than 24 hours in duration.

South Staffordshire Council Directors undertake emergency exercise

All Directors at South Staffordshire Council have now taken part in Exercise IVOR, a table-top emergency exercise, aimed at Directors on Call.



The scenario, based on a train crash, requires the Directors to think about the actions they would take having been notified of a train crash in their area, and the key organisations they would need to liaise closely with.

Phil Hardy, South Staffordshire Council said *"The training is part of our on-going commitment to improve the capacity of the Council to respond at all levels and was important for our Management Team having recently moved over to a Director on Call system"*.

Sarah Moore, from the Civil Contingencies Unit, said *"The Directors have all shown they are more than capable of managing an incident in the South Staffordshire area. The next step will be to get them on further, more challenging exercises to ensure that their response and recovery skills continue to develop."*

Exercise MERCURY

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Civil Contingencies Unit (CCU), allied to the SRF Ops Meeting decision to cut back on the number of MERCURY exercises a decision was made to cancel Exercise MERCURY IV.

The next Exercise in the series will be Exercise MERCURY V and will take place on 21 Oct 11 (originally advertised as 7 Oct 11) with further exercises every six months, 13 Apr 12 and 5 Oct 12 respectively.

The reason for the slip from 7 Oct to 21 Oct 11 is that is a multi agency CBRN and Recovery Exercise, Exercise DARNAY, will take place on 3 and 5 Oct 11.

The Exercise MERCURY that is due to take place on 13 Apr 12 is vital to iron out any communication link issues prior to the Olympics in 2012. To this end it is planned to test every piece of communication equipment listed in the Critical / Major Incident Resilient Operational Communications Plan, Annex N. A proposal is being put to the SRF Ops Meeting to review this plan prior to this exercise.

In due course the CCU will be canvassing all SRF partners listed in the Plan confirming their equipment holdings and contact details. You are requested to assist in this piece of work to ensure a timely completion of this review. All recipients are reminded that the current Plan holds a Government Protective Marking System classification of RESTRICTED and should be treated according to government guidelines.



Partnership Working – The Next Level

With effect from 1 Apr 11 Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire County Council joined forces, seconding their Emergency Planning staff to the CCU, to ensure a combined approach to preparing for and responding to emergencies.

The new structure delivers efficiency, economy and effectiveness through a consistent approach to key outputs (e.g. training, exercising and plan production), while allowing for an enhanced Duty Officer function, with the addition of new members of staff to the Duty Officer rota. It also negates the need for duplication between responders, when they share duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

The CCU is a shared service funded by and providing support to 22 Category 1 responders, and further opportunities to develop closer partnership working through the new operating structure exist. For example, the NHS now has a 'hot desk' facility at the CCU, which enables closer more integrated working and communication between the NHS and wider partners of the Staffordshire Resilience Forum.

With this partnership working, it is hoped that Staffordshire's public bodies will become more resilient, and a more consistent approach can be taken across the county, thus ensuring Staffordshire remains a safe place to live, work and visit.

The CCU has been recognised, both nationally and internationally, as a beacon of best practice and it is hoped that the new structure will establish a benchmark for how Civil Contingencies can be organised at a county level.

Spotlight on Disaster Action

2011 brings the 20th anniversary of the founding of the charity Disaster Action (DA). Disaster Action members have personal experience of surviving and/or being bereaved in over 25 disasters of different origin, including terrorist attacks, transport and natural disasters. These range from the Zeebrugge ferry sinking (1987) to the South East Asian Tsunami (2004), the London and Sharm El Sheikh bombings (2005) and further terrorist attacks overseas. The organisation consists of an informal national network. An independent charity that receives no funding from government, DA's funding sources are primarily grant-making charitable trusts and fees from members' presentations at emergency planning events and conferences.

Not normally a frontline responder, DA works in an advocacy and advisory capacity. Its' aims are to:

- Offer support to those directly affected by disaster
- Raise awareness of the needs of survivors and the bereaved in the short- and longer-term aftermath
- Help create a safety climate in which disasters are less likely to occur.

More information can be found in the Voluntary Sector Directory, prepared by the CCU or by contacting Pam Dix, Executive Director, via the CCU.

Stoke on Trent Prepare for a Major Incident

June 11 was the month that tested Stoke-on-Trent's ability to respond to an Emergency in the Council's Major Incident Plans and Procedures and Business Continuity Arrangements to the maximum.

A group of experts from Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue, Staffordshire Police, NHS and West Midlands Ambulance Service and the CCU wrote a realistic scenario that would test each of the Category 1 responders response.

The beginning of June saw a live multi agency exercise, Exercise SOTER, carried out in Blurton. The scenario was based on a chemical incident in a block of residential flats.



"The exercise was a great opportunity for the emergency services and local authority to work together and test what we would do if an incident like this actually happened" Station Manger, Garry Goodwin, Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service said.

A week later a desktop exercise, Exercise SOTER 2, took place at Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters which enabled all of Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Management Leadership Team to work in syndicate tables with colleagues from Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, Staffordshire Police and the NHS. This time the scenario was similar to the liveplay, but focussed on the Major Incident arrangements the City Council had in place to deal with the fall out of an incident like this, such as the evacuation of the residents and surrounding area and the need to open rest centres for those made homeless by the incident.

"This exercise was the first time we have been able to work together with other local responders to go through the process of dealing with an emergency. While we hope that these actions will never need to be put into practice it is imperative that we have systems in place to minimise disruption to services for our residents" Councillor Paul Shotton, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transformation and Resources, Stoke on Trent City Council said.



There was also an opportunity for Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Management Leadership

Team to work together to review their Business Continuity Plans in Exercise DOWNTIME, against a realistic scenario that involved a loss of power to their Data Centre, which had subsequent knock on effects to their service delivery. This was an opportunity for each directorate to consider the impacts on their services.

Training and Exercises – Updates for All Responders...

Following the publication of this years Training and Exercise Prospectus the take up by CCU stakeholders for both training courses and exercises has been good.

Since April 11, 12 events have taken place and been well attended, including Loggist Training, Map Reading, Satellite Telephone, Scientific and Technical Advice Cell (STAC) training, together with a number of courses specifically for colleagues from the health authorities. A further 22 sessions are planned, to check future course availability, venues and dates, check out the Staffordshire Prepared website under the Training & Exercise section.

[Download your copy of the Training and Exercise Prospectus here.](#)

In addition to training, 25 exercises have also been held; this includes the first in the Exercise RAVEN series for 2011 / 12.

Building on the success of the previous two years, this year sees the provision of eight RAVEN Exercises scheduled, including two Strategic, four Tactical and two Recovery exercises. Due to increased demand from Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council two additional Exercise RAVEN – Tactical exercises have been included this year, topping that up to six Tactical Exercises!



The 'IVOR' series of Strategic Leader exercises continues to be popular, with a broader cross section of organisational strategic leaders having experienced the first Strategic Leader Exercise in the series. Exercise FOWL

PLAY and Exercise BIG BIRD form part of the series, which each offer a different set of challenges for our organisations' Strategic Leaders.

Andy Marshall, Director of Civil Contingencies is in the process of writing the next in the series of Strategic Leader Exercises, Exercise CO-STAR. More information will follow

New to the Director on Call / Management / Duty Manager level exercises are Exercise ICARUS and Exercise EXPRESS, both aimed at Acute Trusts and Exercise NIGHTINGALE, aimed at Mental Health Trust partners.

Strategic Leader and Director on Call level exercises should be booked direct with CCU Admin (ccu@staffordshirefire.gov.uk).



All training and exercises provided by the CCU have CPD Certification with the award of individual CPD points for all delegates who attend training courses and exercises.



Dates for your Diary

Places are still available on the forthcoming courses and you can book your place on the Staffordshire Prepared website.

17 Aug 11	Map Reading Made Easy
8 Sep 11	Loggist Training
15 Sep 11	Satellite Telephone Training
20 Sep 11	Rest Centre Training
21 Sep 11	Pre Exercise RAVEN Awareness Training
4 Oct 11	Map Reading Made Easy
6 Oct 11	Satellite Telephone Training
11 Oct 11	Forward Control Officer

If your organisation requires a number of people trained please contact CCU Admin (ccu@staffordshirefire.gov.uk) as the CCU may be able to provide bespoke training at your location.