

Staffordshire Prepared



Exercise MERCURY

Exercise MERCURY is a multi agency exercise where all 22 Category 1 responder partners of the Staffordshire Resilience Forum along with Regional and National Partners conduct a test of their Emergency Control Room communications equipment.

During any crisis, operational communication is key to the swift and safe management of the incident. All Category 1 responders now have a range of communications capabilities. It is vital that these are regularly tested in a realistic way.



The Civil Contingencies Unit, on behalf of the Staffordshire Resilience Forum, has developed Exercise MERCURY with an intention to:

- Familiarise individual partner organisations in the setting up and running of their Emergency Control Room and the operation of the communication equipment therein.
- Identify any inaccuracies in the contact information in the Resilient Communications Plan.
- Give partner organisations confidence that in the time of crisis they have the ability to communicate at a strategic level electronically to and from Emergency Control Rooms.

Initially the communication equipment tested in the exercise is:

- Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) – land line telephone
- Microsoft Outlook - email
- Satellite telephony
- Facsimile (fax)

Over time, additional communication equipment will be tested such as:

- High Integrity Telecommunications Equipment (HITS)
- Airwave
- RAYNET
- Video Conferencing

Later additions of the exercise will test each participating organisations' ability to carry out given Strategic/Tactical objective tasks using the agreed fallback communications structure to communicate.



For further information, please contact Steve Berry in the CCU on s.berry@staffordshirefire.gov.uk.