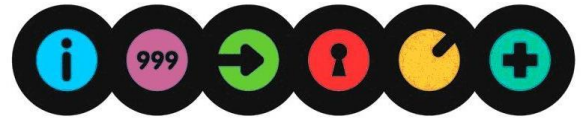


Staffordshire Prepared



The Newsletter of the Staffordshire Resilience Forum

Issue No: 19

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Exercise DARNAY Series

Exercise DARNAY 1

On 3 Oct 11 the Emergency Services were mobilised to attend a suspect vehicle involved in a Road Traffic Collision in Stoke-on-Trent. The situation rapidly got more serious however as the Ambulance crews' equipment indicated that there was a radiological source in the vehicle as they approached.

This was the situation that members of the Staffordshire Resilience Community faced as they arrived to take part in Exercise DARNAY; an



exercise designed to validate the new Staffordshire CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Nuclear and Radiological) plan. The subsequent identification of a second suspect vehicle with a radiological source on board only made things more challenging. Nevertheless, the Emergency services worked hard to stabilise the situation, putting cordons in place and getting specialists on their way. Before

long it was time for the other responder organisations to play their part; Local Authorities and Health organisations across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent mobilised their resources and supported those affected in the communities as well as the overworked responders. Regional and National advice was obtained and acted upon to make both scenes safe before, through the magic of time-slip, the Recovery Coordinating Group could take over and restore normality.

Exercise DARNAY 2

The Staffordshire Recovery Plan, the agreed arrangements for the clean-up and community support following a disaster, has had its first significant testing as part of Exercise DARNAY.

The Recovery element of the exercise, facilitated by the CCU, began with the two simulated radiological attacks which then challenged the Recovery Coordinating Group on the afternoon of 3 Oct 11 to address strategic issues. Following that the exercise culminated in a full day's session on 5 Oct 11 looking at the work of the Recovery Subgroups at more of a detailed level. Both days were well attended, and also well received among Staffordshire Resilience Forum (SRF) Partners. Also in attendance on 5 October were members of several key organisations outside of the Staffordshire Resilience Forum (SRF), such as the Association of British Insurers, Government Decontamination Service and the Cabinet Office.

Nick Brown, Recovery Policy Manager from the Cabinet Office, who attended the second day of the exercise, said "I was delighted to be invited along to the exercise. It clearly demonstrated the value of multi-agency partners working as closely together as they do in Staffordshire in order to prove the key concepts and processes as set out in the SRF Recovery Plan. Having participated in the event, I can say that Staffordshire is clearly well placed to recover from a major incident."

Feedback from the Recovery exercise will now be collated and taken forward to inform a post-exercise review of the Staffordshire Recovery Plan, which will be released in its next version in Spring 2012.

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Spotlight on

- West Midlands 4x4

Recent Tweets:

twitter



[@StaffsPlace](#)

Catherine Raines
Staffordshire County Council

Very proud of Staffordshire's Civil Contingencies Unit: excellent training and preparedness for major incidents



[DavidHudsonEA](#)

David Hudson
Environment Agency

glad of the help from [@BWmidlands](#) and [@StaffsPrepared](#) on this one. Colleagues from Nottingham also swelling our ranks today.

Get Ready for Winter Campaign

Get ready
for winter



A number of Government Departments, Industry Bodies and Voluntary Sector partners are promoting information on how to "Get Ready for Winter" during the week of 24-30 Oct 11, to coincide with the week that the clocks go back. The aim of the initiative is to raise awareness of the need for winter planning and encourage individuals, families and communities to use the extra hour to think about what preparations they may need to make.

The key messages and links to sources of information can be accessed from the following page: www.direct.gov.uk/getreadyforwinter or www.staffordshireprepared.gov.uk. Also follow us on Twitter @StaffsPrepared for timely updates.

Medical College Visit to the CCU

On 9 Aug 11 Dr Shashikala Manjunatha (Professor and Head) and Dr Vidya Srividya (Assistant Professor) of the Department of Community Medicine at Rajarajeshwari Medical College, Bangalore, India accompanied by John Dyer from the HPA were welcomed to the CCU by Andy Marshall and members of the team. Both are currently visiting the Health Protection Agency (West Midlands area) and as part of their time here they asked to see examples of civil protection work.



Mel Page, CCU, Visitors from Rajarajeshwari Medical College and John Dyer, HPA

After a presentation on the Civil Contingencies Act, the Unit and how we work with our NHS partners in Staffordshire our visitors were given a tour of the Mobile Control Unit and all its capabilities.

Unfortunately our time together limited but both visitors were impressed by what they saw.

Exercise TRITON announced

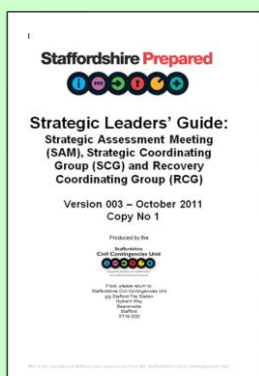
A large multi-agency exercise named TRITON has been agreed at the SRF Operations Meeting. With the aim of testing the new Staffordshire Prepared Generic Offsite Reservoir Plan, it is hoped the scope of the exercise will also allow for testing of a number of other emergency plans, including Staffordshire Emergency Flood Plan, communications plans, and Rest Centre Plans, as well as various command and control procedures.

Exercise TRITON is planned for June 2013. This will allow 2012 to be focussed predominantly on Olympics work.

The project is being managed by Sarah Moore at the Civil Contingencies Unit, with the support of a Project Team consisting of representatives from organisations including Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, South Staffs Water, Staffordshire County Council and the Environment Agency.

Further updates to follow.

Strategic Leaders' Guide Launch Version 003



The SRF partnership's Strategic Leaders' Guide has now been updated to Version 003, in order to incorporate a range of minor amendments. The Guide, which is issued to strategic leaders in all SRF partners organisations, provides a simple, checklist-based framework for initiating and managing a Strategic Assessment Meeting (SAM), a Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) or a Recovery Coordinating Group (RCG). Director of Civil Contingencies, Andy Marshall, outlined the importance of the Guide: *"The Strategic Leaders' Guide takes a very flexible approach that*

can be readily adapted to a wide range of incidents. In order for us to achieve maximum consistency in our approach, I would actively encourage all holders of numbered copies across the SRF partnership to ensure that they update their Guide to Version 003 without delay."

As Version 003 was going live, the Cabinet Office confirmed that they formally recognised the Strategic Leaders' Guide as 'good practice' nationally. This comes alongside the recognition of the Guide as a 'best practice' case study in multi-agency coordination by the EU-funded COIM-Best research project. The Cabinet Office has now requested that the Strategic Leaders' Guide be shared nationally via the National Resilience Extranet; this will be taking place in late October/early November.



Ulley Reservoir Dam showing signs of failing, 2007

Raising Awareness of Civil Contingencies

Members of the CCU have been out and about during September raising awareness of civil contingencies and partnership working across Staffordshire.

Stafford Hospital Staff Health & Safety Day – 20 September 2011

Mel Page and Megan Harris attended Stafford Hospital to meet and speak with hospital staff and raise awareness of civil contingencies and their potential roles in an emergency.



On display was information on Preparing for the Unexpected, how the staff could be resilient in their homes as well as workplaces and how Stafford Hospital fits into the SRF structure.

South Staffordshire & Shropshire Healthcare Trust AGM Open Day – 21 September 2011

Mel Page and Megan Harris attended St George's Hospital, Stafford, at their AGM Open Day. The day was attended by Healthcare Trust staff from all sites within Staffordshire and even Shropshire, members of the public and Trust Members.

The stand had a lot of interest from staff wanting advice on business continuity planning and how to be prepared at home for the forthcoming winter months.

Stafford Hospital AGM – 26 September 2011

Megan Harris and Sarah Moore attended Stafford Hospital's AGM. Members attending the AGM were interested in partnership working across the newly structured NHS and the work that the CCU did with Stafford Hospital to advise and assist with civil contingencies matters.



If you would like to the CCU to attend any of your public events or forum please contact Megan Harris on 01785 898617 or m.harris@staffordshirefire.gov.uk.



WEST MIDLANDS 4x4 RESPONSE

4x4 volunteers are ready for harsh winter

The West Midlands 4x4 Response group has been completing essential team building exercises in preparation for a harsh winter. At a recent team building day volunteer 4x4 drivers and support members conducted control exercises to refine the groups call out procedures, fine tune communications equipment and train additional dispatch controllers.



Forecasts for the forthcoming winter are for a repeat of the record breaking cold temperatures suffered last December combined with even heavier snow fall. Communities are going to struggle to ensure all roads are passable to avoid the traffic chaos that can leave essential workers stranded.

Group Co-ordinator Mark Downing explains "While we may be a young volunteer organisation our aim is to provide the community with a team which is as professional as possible. These team building days give us opportunity to simulate a lot of the tasks our members may encounter while on call and ultimately build a more capable and more tightly knit group."

This follows on from an intense year of progress for the response group which has been consistently busy improving every aspect of operation while also attending local events to raise much needed funds and awareness.

The West Midlands 4x4 Response is a volunteer group which consists of 20 members offering resilient 4x4 transport support to Category 1 & 2 responders and other volunteer agencies when ordinary vehicles are not able to cope with the conditions.

In Dec 10, during the worst snowfall for a number of years in the area, West Midlands 4x4 Response assisted West Midlands Ambulance Service and BADGERS (Birmingham And District General Emergency Rooms) by completing in excess of over 280 tasks including transporting key staff in and out of the Regional Emergency Operations Centre, recovering stuck Ambulances and transporting Critical Care Doctors and Nurses to various hospitals in Redditch, Worcester, Dudley, Sandwell and Birmingham. For this the group was awarded a West Midlands Ambulance Chief Officer's Commendation.

CCU Bids Farewell to Marie Dale

After over five years' service with the CCU, Marie Dale has decided to hang up her red helmet and safety shoes, having been successful in her application to become Emergency Planning lead in the new Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent NHS Partnership Trust.

Marie has been a key member of the CCU since its formation and throughout her time with the Unit she has provided the SRF partnership with excellent support across a wide range of subject areas, ranging from flooding to fuel and fatalities to flu.

From all the team at the CCU, we wish Marie the very best for the future.

Training and Exercises – Updates for All Responders...

- During 2011 137 attendees have benefited from taking part in exercises and 184 attendees from some form of training event.
- The first of the Tactical Exercise RAVEN's have taken place in September and October with a full house of delegates. These exercises are proving to be well liked, with all who attend having a challenging but rewarding experience undertaken in a safe learning environment.
- Pre RAVEN Exercise Awareness has also seen an improved level of attendance, especially for those Local Authority delegates booked onto future RAVEN exercises. Verbal feedback from delegates to RAVEN exercises who undertook the awareness training sessions, have been positive and indicated the value in being better prepared for what to expect.
- The Basic Map Reading and Satellite Telephone courses have both seen an increase in attendance during recent months, these are beneficial if you have the potential to be used in a response role such as a Forward Control Officer or Emergency Control Room Operator.
- Two STAC (Scientific and Technical Advice Cell) training sessions were held during recent weeks, they were delivered by subject matter expert staff from the Health Protection Agency. These sessions were aimed at those individuals who might be expected to become a member of a STAC were it to be set up in Staffordshire. Both sessions were fully attended and held at Police Headquarters.



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



Dates for your Diary

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

10 Nov 11	Loggist Training
17 Nov 11	Satellite Telephone
30 Nov 11	Map Reading
8 Dec 11	Rest Centre Training

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.

Exercise CALLISTO

Newcastle under Lyme Rest Centre Exercise

Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council have undertaken a successful exercise to practice setting up and running a Rest Centre.

The exercise, facilitated by the CCU, saw the part of residents evacuated through flooding, ably played by students from Newcastle-under-Lyme College's Public Services course. The Council staffed the Rest Centre in one of its buildings, in partnership with Aspire Housing, Stoke and Staffordshire Partnership Trust, Staffordshire Police and St John Ambulance. The exercise was also supported by Morrisons, who provided refreshments to simulate the Crisis Purchasing Scheme.



The exercise allowed the Council and its partners to test its procedures in establishing a Rest Centre, and to practice dealing with the sorts of issues which commonly arise within it. Lessons identified will be taken forward and embedded into future arrangements.

Exercise CO-STAR

The CCU will launch the latest in its one-to-one coaching scenario for Strategic Leaders in November. Exercise CO-STAR will be based on the strategic, multi-agency response to a 1-in-1000 year flood of Stafford and areas to the East of Stafford.



There are currently three one-to-one coaching scenarios provided by the CCU, two which tackle response (Exercises IVOR and FOWL PLAY) and one which is focused on recovery (Exercise BIG BIRD). The sessions last up to three hours and they give participants an excellent opportunity to use their Strategic Leaders' Guide to tackle realistic scenarios, all of which are based on credible local risks.

Director of Civil Contingencies, Andy Marshall, commented on the new addition to the CCU's portfolio: *"The one-to-one coaching scenarios have been extremely well-received by Staffordshire's strategic leaders. Building on this, Exercise CO-STAR really takes us into new territory as it will focus heavily on the challenge faced by an incoming SCG Chair who is taking over responsibility for a complex operation that is already well underway."*