

**JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE – 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2007**

**REPORT OF THE JOINT RESILIENCE UNIT**

**Bi - Monthly Update: JOINT RESILIENCE UNIT**

**1. *Emergency Planning***

- The Unit was involved directly in 4 incidents with the Emergency Services – please refer to ***Annex 1***
- Multi-agency COMAH Exercise Heavy Metal, INCO, Clydach took place on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2007. A briefing note is attached as ***Annex 2***
- Multi Agency Flood Emergency Response Plan for Canal Side, Aberdulais has been issued with the Environment Agency after consultation with the Police and Fire Services.
- JRU participated in the UK Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Forum in Cardiff on 14<sup>th</sup> September. The voluntary sector has an important role to play in supporting the statutory services in response to emergencies. A small group will explore how more active engagement, through planning, training and exercising will enable the voluntary sector to be more effective in providing support in the event of an emergency. We have been invited to be part of this working group, representing the seven local authorities in the SWLRF region.
- Work continues on reviewing the Emergency Response plans for both Authorities.
- Desktop exercises will be facilitated over the next twelve months to test the Directorate Emergency Response Plans.

**2. *Risk***

- NPT/CCS Resilience Partnership Risk Group met on 27<sup>th</sup> September to review the draft risk register.

- Very High/High Risks identified on the Neath Port Talbot & City & County of Swansea Risk Register through the NPT/CCS Resilience Partnership are being reviewed by the respective organisations, identified as the lead responder, with the purpose of developing a work programme to deliver multi agency plans to respond to the consequences of an incident arising from one or more of the identified very high/high risks.
- A report from the Chair of the Risk Group for the SWLRF was presented to the SWLRF Co-ordination group on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October making recommendations to the LRF to help inform the strategic development of the work programme. A report is due from the LRF in due course.

### **3. *Business Continuity***

- Work continues with Directorates in developing draft business continuity plans. The JRU are currently writing in excess of 120 plans with service managers based on the individual business impact analysis undertaken by each critical service identified. The timescale for completion is the end of November 2007.
- Reports will be prepared for Directors in both authorities in December identifying areas where progress needs to be made in the development of business continuity plans.

### **4. *Warning & Informing***

- The intranet and internet Joint Resilience sites have recently been redesigned and improved providing more current information and links to external organisation's own websites
- Business Continuity Promotion information is now more accessible from the website and we have paper copies to distribute at seminars and/or conferences.
- Project Argus for Port Talbot and Neath Town Centres was unfortunately postponed due to a lack of 'take up' by local businesses in Port Talbot and Neath. We are working with the Police to see whether we can generate interest in a number of other ways.

### **5. *Future Events - dates finalised***

- The Joint Resilience Unit will now be having monthly meetings with the Police to discuss resilience matters at the local level. The first meeting is due to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> November. .

- A Members seminar is to be arranged for the Spring 2008. The Joint Resilience Unit would welcome suggestions from Elected Members on what they would like to see at this event.
- Pandemic Influenza Conference in Cardiff on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008. Representatives from the JRU and Social Services will be attending.
- An exercise to test the Multi Agency Flood Emergency Response Plan for Canal Side, Aberdulais is being arranged by the Environment Agency for Spring 2008. This will be a 'live' exercise at the site with the involvement of residents and key stakeholders.

**Annex 1**

**JOINT RESILIENCE UNIT RESPONSE TO LOCAL INCIDENTS REPORTED TO THE DUTY OFFICER**

**From 21<sup>st</sup> September 2007 to current**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DETAIL &amp; RESPONSE</b>
<b>10/10/07</b>	Signode, Forest Fach, Swansea	Information only - Fire involving Asbestos
<b>16/10/07</b>	Glan Afan Comprehensive, Port Talbot	Information only - Chemical spill at the chemical laboratory. Children evacuated but only minutes from end of school day so children did not require sheltering
<b>18/10/07</b>	Gwyn Hall, Neath	Information only – Building fire.
<b>8/11/07</b>	Former Valio Climate control building, Gorseinon, Swansea	Information only – Gas leak involving evacuation of 1 building. Police evacuated the employees to PenyrHeol Leisure Centre before alerting the Joint Resilience Unit Duty Officer. No residences involved.

## **EXERCISE HEAVY METAL – COMAH EXERCISE**

On the 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, the Joint Resilience Unit (JRU) for Neath Port Talbot & City & County of Swansea in collaboration with INCO Refinery at Clydach, arranged and attended a live on-site exercise to conform to duties put upon the Local Authority under the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999. Mid & West Wales Fire Service, South Wales Police and Ambulance Service personnel attended INCO to deal with a simulated ammonia leak from a storage tank on-site. INCO & the Emergency Service responding personnel worked closely together to deal with the emergency scenario by setting up a command and control structure to communicate closely in the multi-agency response.



The live exercise was followed by a multi-agency tabletop exercise facilitated by the JRU on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2007. The event was the result of 6 months work by the multi-agency Exercise Planning Group, chaired & co-ordinated by the JRU. The planning group comprised of representatives of the Emergency Services, Health & Safety Executive, Environment Agency, National Public Health Service, Local Health Board, Health Trust, INCO and the JRU. Participants and observers of the exercise came from the afore mentioned organisations, City & County of Swansea Directorates and other COMAH operators. The aim of the exercise was to bring together INCO staff and the emergency responders in the Swansea area, to evaluate the INCO's COMAH Off-site plan, to ensure it dovetailed with the on-site plan and emergency response plans of responders, and to broaden the understanding of each others roles and responsibilities when responding to an incident at INCO.

The scenario followed on from the event on 26<sup>th</sup> September as the ammonia cloud drifted off the INCO site and may have had off-site consequences. Syndicates discussed the problems as the incident developed and responded collaboratively to the events, in a controlled manner. The day was a very good example of partnership working at a local level to protect the community from risks that are identified, in order to make our Local Authority and community more resilient!