

## **Joint Resilience Committee**

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

### **Joint Report of the Lead Heads of Service for Resilience**

#### **1. Member Seminar – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

##### **1.1 Purpose**

This briefing note has been prepared for the Joint Resilience Committee as a debrief on the Member Seminar held at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

##### **1.2 Background**

In light of recent local major incidents, such as the Fforestfach Fire and Gleision Mine Tragedy, the seminar, aptly named ‘The Role of the Elected Member in an Emergency’ was aimed at increasing Member’s knowledge of resilience and emergency response procedures and their role during an incident.

##### **1.3 Seminar**

The seminar consisted of interactive sessions, presentations from Shaun Burgess (JRU Manager) and PC Andrew Walters (South Wales Police Civil Contingencies Unit) and a demonstration of the Joint Resilience Unit public-facing Website.

##### **1.4 Seminar aim**

To provide Elected Members with an understanding of how the emergency services work with the Local Authority before, during and after emergency incidents, and more importantly where an Elected Members role fits into this process.

##### **1.5 Exercise Objectives**

- To enhance the understanding amongst Elected Members of Integrated Emergency Management.
- To increase knowledge in the role of the Joint Resilience Unit.

- To raise confidence of Elected Members in their role during an emergency.
- To issue Elected Members the Elected Members Protocol.

## **1.6 Summary**

In summary, despite a number of invitations being sent out from Members support and the event being held in the evening so as to accommodate a larger audience, the turn out was poor. Out of a potential 130+ attendees only 26 were able to attend (14 from NPTCBC and 12 from CCOS). A full list of exercise participants is available upon request from the Joint Resilience Unit.

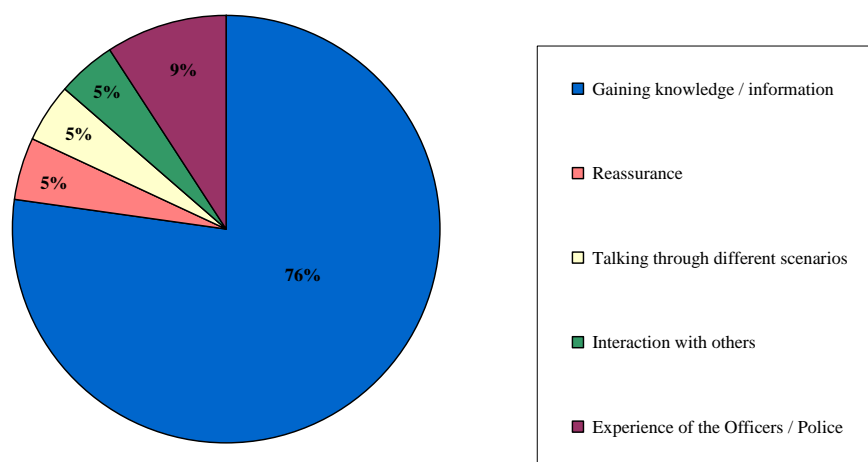
## **1.7 Conclusions**

Despite the low level of attendance, overall the event proved to be successful. The syndicate work was well facilitated and allowed the groups to discuss key issues that would arise during an incident. The vast majority of feedback from exercise was very positive.

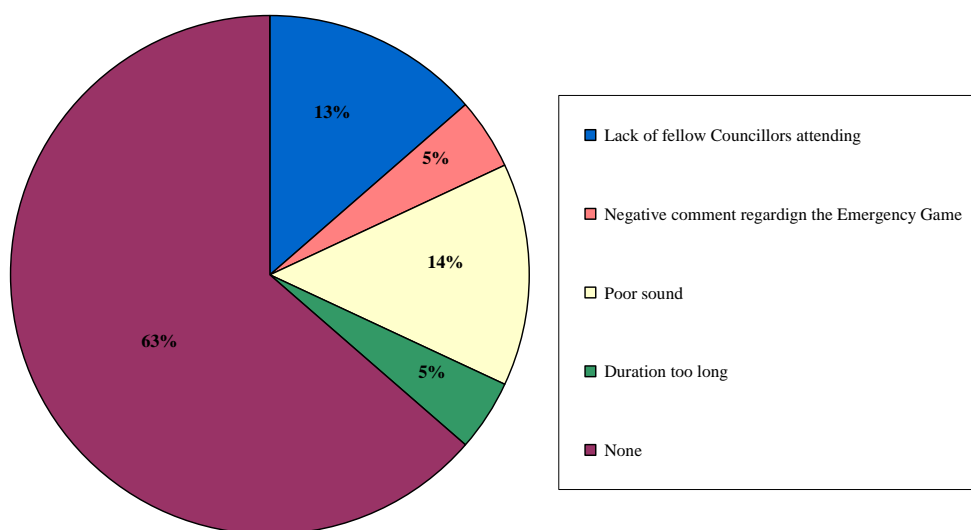
The exercise was well supported by the Police. The new format for the exercise was a welcome change to the format used at previous seminars.

Overall feedback from the event was very positive and many Councillors requested the JRU run further Seminars that raise awareness of Resilience issues in future.

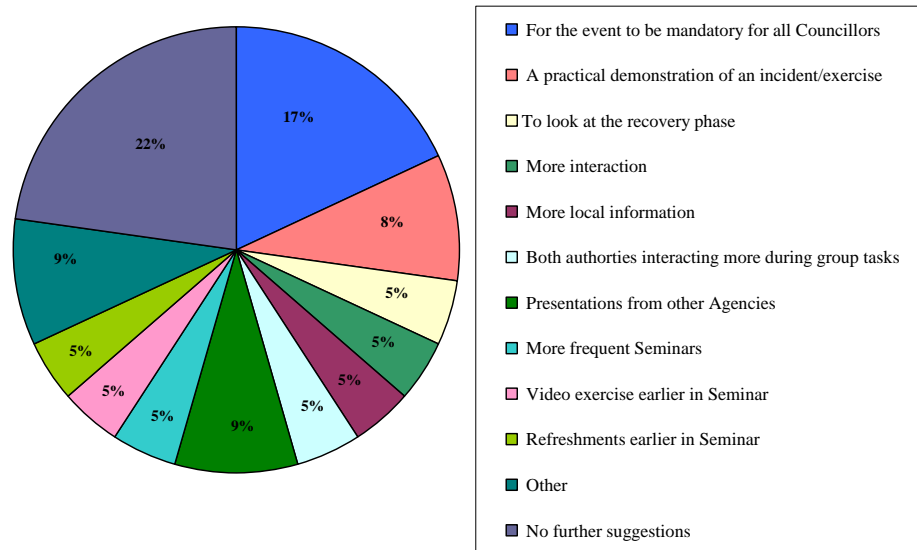
**What positive experiences did you have from taking part in the event?**



**What negative experiences did you have from taking part in the event?**



**Do you have any suggestions for the future JRU events (for elected members)?**



## 1.8 Recommendation

**Members are requested please to comment upon the success of this event and to identify what further Member events might be appropriate.**

## 2. Exercise New Flame

### 2.1 Purpose

This briefing note has been prepared to inform Members about Exercise New Flame which was held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2012 with Flogas UK who are based Llandarcy, Neath.

### 2.2 Background

Under the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) 1999, Regulation 10 states ‘the Local Authority for the area where a COMAH site is located must prepare an adequate emergency plan for dealing with the off-site consequences of possible major accidents’. The COMAH Regulations also state that these plans must be tested and exercised every three years.

### 2.3 Exercise New Flame

Exercise New Flame was held at the DVLA Richard Ley Development Centre in Llansamlet, Swansea. The event was facilitated by Ben Cromie, Resilience and Business Continuity Officer for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and City & County of Swansea, supported by members of the multi-agency Exercise Planning Group and team members of the Joint Resilience Unit (JRU).

### **Exercise Aim**

To bring together Flogas staff and the emergency responders in the Neath Port Talbot area to evaluate Flogas' COMAH Off-site Plan, to ensure it dovetails with the On-site Plan and emergency response plans of responders and broaden the understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities when responding to an incident at Flogas.

### **Exercise Objectives**

- To validate the COMAH Off-site Plan.
- To ensure operations dovetail with those of the Operator's COMAH On-site Plan and the emergency response of the responding services/agencies.
- To develop awareness of the principles of command and control and the relationship to the roles and responsibilities of the Emergency Services, Flogas, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Health Organisations, Environment Agency and other relevant agencies when responding to an incident at Flogas.
- To develop awareness of the scale and nature of the operational requirements and availability of the necessary resources required to respond to such an incident.
- To make participants aware of each organisation's alerting procedures and how they have endeavoured to co-ordinate their action, taking into account multi-agency issues.
- For participants to familiarise themselves with the inter-agency expectations of their own organisations under the COMAH Regulations.

- To ensure any identified shortcomings or anomalies of the COMAH plans and relevant response plans are highlighted in the exercise report, addressed in the Forward Action Plan and rectified to a feasible and agreed position.

## **Exercise Format**

The exercise took the form of a tabletop exercise with two syndicate tables, Bronze (operational) and Silver (tactical) response.

For the first time during a COMAH Exercise facilitated by the JRU, Bronze and Silver syndicates were located in different rooms to reflect reality as best as possible. Both groups were then required to communicate via Airwave radios and mobile telephone to test communication between the two groups.

Each syndicate table was made up of representatives from responding agencies which helped certain objectives of the exercise, in particular, to gain a broader understanding of each others roles and responsibilities when responding to an incident at Flogas.

The ‘real time’ exercise was built up through a series of injects. The first inject was delivered to a Flogas employee to notify them of an accident onsite. This escalated until the emergency services and other responders were dealing with the operational response.

The Silver syndicate were introduced to start looking at the tactical level of response required to deal with the incident.

The injects were built up to a point where both Bronze and Silver syndicate groups were both simultaneously responding to the incident, while based in different rooms.

At the end of the exercise, all players were brought into the main hall for a ‘hot’ debrief session.

## **Participating Agencies**

- Flogas UK
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Mid and West Wales Fire Service

- South Wales Police
- South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA)
- Environment Agency Wales
- Public Health Wales
- Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Trust
- **Exercise Observers:**
- Health and Safety Executive
- SWLRF Assistant Secretariat
- Representatives from the Agencies listed above

A full list of exercise participants is available upon request from the Joint Resilience Unit

Sixty two (62) people attended the exercise in total. This number was made up of individuals participating in the syndicate group work, facilitators and observers.

All participating agencies were represented on the Exercise Planning Group and contributed to the development of the exercise.

The Exercise Planning Group was chaired and administered by Ben Cromie from the Joint Resilience Unit for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council & City & County of Swansea.

## **Exercise Scenario**

### **Flogas operations:**

It is a normal working day at Flogas, Llandarcy. There are 11 Flogas staff and 6 contractors working onsite. The team of 6 contract workers are carrying out 10-yearly maintenance on LPG Vessel Number 2.

### **Initial exercise scenario:**

The crane the contractors are using to carry out the maintenance work drops a Pressure Release Valve (PRV) onto the LPG pipe work causing a fracture. The contractor driving the crane witnesses the

accident and they immediately press the deluge button. They raise the alarm with Flogas.

**Weather:**

It's a dry cloudy day (approximately 13C) with a North Easterly wind between 8-14mph.

**Traffic:**

Overnight there was a lorry fire on the M4 which has resulted in a lane closure on the westbound carriageway while resurfacing work is carried out. Traffic is slow moving westbound between junctions 41 (Briton Ferry) & 44 (Llansamlet) due to this lane closure.

## **2.4 Summary**

The syndicate work was well facilitated and allowed the groups to discuss key issues that would arise during an incident at a top-tier COMAH site. The vast majority of feedback from exercise was very positive.

The exercise was well supported by all agencies involved. The new format for the exercise was a welcome change to the format used at previous COMAH exercises.

Participants felt that having Bronze and Silver Command groups situated in different rooms and playing in 'real time' made the exercise more realistic. This also helped tease out issues, for example problems using Airwave radio sets, that would have been overlooked if the previous format had been used.

The event was held at the DVLA Richard Ley Development Centre which is an excellent facility for this type of exercise. Exercise participants and observers appreciated the modern facilities and refreshments available at the centre.

A full report will be written which will capture relevant recommendations. Any actions required as a result of the exercise will be managed by the JRU.

## **2.5 Recommendation**

It is **RECOMMENDED** that this report be **NOTED**



### **3. Resilience & Emergency Planning – Collaboration Update**

#### **3.1 Background**

Members will be aware that the Welsh Government is strongly urging all 22 local authorities in Wales to collaborate and to share services wherever feasible.

All resilience and emergency planning activities are, of course, already highly dependent upon inter-authority and multi-agency working. Indeed, the CCA 2004 places a duty upon Responder organisations to work in collaboration.

There is, however, always scope for improvement.

At present, the lead Heads of Service for Resilience across the seven local authorities in the South Wales Police area are considering how the work of their respective Resilience teams can be better co-ordinated.

A business case setting out how this might be achieved is currently being finalised.

A verbal update will be provided to Members at the meeting in advance of a more substantial report being presented to this Committee in the New Year.

#### **3.2 Recommendation**

It is **RECOMMENDED** that this report be **NOTED**

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