

Scottish Resilience News

Issue 4: October 2009



Scotland's emergency services joined colleagues from south of the border in September, to practise with the specialist decontamination equipment they would use in the event of a release of hazardous materials. See the full story in this month's Exercise Green Gate supplement.

Welcome

Welcome to Scottish Resilience News.

Flu remains a focus for us but we continue to work with the wider resilience community to plan and prepare for the other risks we face—including extreme weather, widespread utilities failure, and terrorism.

This issue includes a picture supplement on Green Gate, which brought the emergency services together last month in a scenario based on a terrorist incident. There's more on the Green Gate learning journey in the ScoRDS update.

We've included updates on Firelink and the national Fire Framework. Discussions on fire regulations for bed and breakfast accommodation are still progressing with Scotland's eight fire and rescue services and industry representatives, and proposals for new guidance will be available for public consultation soon.

We've also been working on the Scottish Resilience Framework Cycle. Look out for more details in the next issue.

I hope you enjoy Scottish Resilience News and I encourage you to get in touch (contact details are on the back page) with your comments and ideas for future issues.

Lorna Gibbs
Head of Resilience Strategy

Bringing resilience out of the bunker

The lessons we can learn from flu for Scotland's resilience more generally, was one of the topics discussed at a Scottish Government seminar last month.

Over 60 representatives of Scotland's resilience community were involved in the seminar, including SCG Chairs, Strategic Co-ordinators, members of the Resilience Advisory Board for Scotland, and representatives of the academic, business and voluntary sectors. The event also discussed the Audit Scotland report and how the findings might be taken forward across the

resilience community.

The views and contributions made at the event are to be analysed by Scottish Government to help inform discussions with responders in future. However, one of the key points which was highlighted during the day was how the current flu pandemic has brought resilience to the forefront of thinking for a wide range of organisations. And this, says Head of

Scottish Resilience, Ian Walford, should resonate with us all.

"One of the effects that flu has had on our wider work in Scotland is that it has brought resilience out of the bunker. This was a phrase coined by one of the delegates and I believe we can work together with responders to keep it out of the bunker, in other words ensure as far as we can that we raise awareness of what resilience means in the context of the main risks Scotland faces."

He added: "We'll also be taking forward discussions about how we use the Audit Scotland findings to further enhance our overall approach to resilience."

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Seminar on risk

The first national Risk and Consequence Analysis Seminar was held in Edinburgh last month. With presentations from Cabinet Office, Scottish Government, Dumfries and Galloway SCG and Renfrewshire Council, the debate was lively!

The 70 delegates discussed the utility of the UK National Risk Assessment and Planning Assumptions-based guidance for responders, how we might improve upon the use of Community Risk Registers, and the wider risk environment.

Among the conclusions were that processes needed to be simplified, and that national and local risk processes must be mutually supportive of one another. The event ended with a clear mandate for Scottish Government and the resilience community to co-operate in moving this forward quickly and harness the energy and ideas generated at the event.

A report of the event will be circulated shortly which will include suggestions for actions. Now the hard work begins! More information from Rod.McKenzie@Scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Fire framework

September 10 saw a Parliamentary debate on the latest Fire and Rescue Framework for Scotland. The debate, led by Fergus Ewing, Minister for Community Safety, gave Parliament the opportunity to consider, support or challenge the content of the Framework, which sets out the Government's vision and expectations for Scotland's eight fire and rescue services.

Views expressed in the debate, as well as those from the public consultation, will now be considered, before a final version of the Framework goes forward for Ministerial approval in November.

Firelink: the rollout continues

The new Firelink digital communications system has continued its rapid rollout across Scotland's eight fire and rescue services, and is now fully operational in over 100 emergency vehicles in Dumfries and Galloway and Central FRS.



Fergus Ewing, Minister for Community Safety, above centre with David Wynne, Chief Fire Officer of Dumfries and Galloway FRS, and Superintendent Graeme Galloway of Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary.

The rollout of the Firelink system has already begun in Highlands and Islands, Strathclyde and Fife, with the system scheduled for full installation across over 1,200 fire and rescue service vehicles and eight control rooms by April 2010.

Based on the Airwave system, currently utilised by police, Firelink will enable firefighters to communicate directly with

incident command centres, police colleagues and other fire vehicles throughout Scotland and Great Britain.

Firelink will deliver a geographical coverage of some 90,000 square miles, from urban centres to the most remote rural communities. It is also being introduced throughout England and Wales, ensuring one common system for every emergency response vehicle in Great Britain.

The decision to introduce Firelink was taken following the September 11 and July

7 terrorist attacks, which highlighted the need for one common communications system linking all emergency services.

Fergus Ewing, Minister for Community Safety, launched the national rollout of the Firelink programme in Dumfries in July. The Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Kenny MacAskill, also saw the start of its introduction in Central FRS (below), where he highlighted the system's priority call function to local and national media.

Bringing resilience out of the bunker

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Scottish Government published its interim response to the Audit Scotland Report, *Improving Civil Contingency Planning in Scotland*, on 6 August 2009. You can read this response at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/emergencies/SR/audit-scotland-report>.





Left to right: Ron Cowan, Glasgow City Council; Alan Dorn, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde; Inspector Kenny Quigley, Strathclyde Police; George Weir, Scottish Ambulance Service; John Forsyth, Glasgow City Council (now Network Rail); and Bill Robb, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue. Picture: Ian Watson.

Glasgow evacuation plan in place

The new Glasgow City Centre Evacuation Plan provides for the evacuation of all or part of the city centre in the event of an emergency. This could be anything from a building collapse, natural disaster, severe weather or utilities failure, to a major fire or terrorist attack. Ron Cowan, Glasgow City Council's Resilience and Safety Manager, explains.

The plan was produced by Glasgow City Council, working with Strathclyde Police, Greater Glasgow and Clyde NHS, the Scottish Ambulance Service, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, British Transport Police and other partners such as Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, transport operators and voluntary agencies.

It is the first plan of its kind in Scotland, but several English cities have already produced their own versions.

The plan ensures that we have in place robust arrangements for a truly joined-up response to a major emergency. It gives us a structure that ensures everyone can work together to minimise injury and loss of life; along with protecting the economic and social wellbeing of our businesses, residents and visitors.

A key element of the plan includes a zone map which shows the city centre divided into 22 areas. These can be evacuated individually or in combination. Another key feature is the introduction of the Glasgow Priority Alert Scheme, which will allow the police to communicate instantly with people who are registered to receive text messages or emails.

The team that produced the plan identified assembly points for people leaving the city, prepared transport arrangements to move people on to rest

centres, and made special arrangements for the evacuation of vulnerable people.

The public would be warned of the need for evacuation, or where one was imminent, through a number of channels, including messages broadcast by the media and communications networks in the city centre.

Scottish Resilience sponsored the development of the plan with a view to it being adapted in future to other cities and areas. Copies of the map and guidance and a link to the Glasgow Priority Alert scheme are available online at: www.glasgow.gov.uk/emplan. More information from Glasgow City Council at emplan@glasgow.gsx.gov.uk, or from Scottish Resilience at Preparing.Scotland@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Glasgow's 22 evacuation zones (below).



Guidance published on care for people, and dealing with mass fatalities in Scotland

Scottish Resilience has published two new pieces of guidance. They now form part of the suite of guidance on aspects of resilience in Scotland gathered under the *Preparing Scotland* banner.

Care for People Affected by Emergencies and Dealing with Mass Fatalities in Scotland have both been distributed to SCGs and published on the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/public-safety/emergencies/guidance>.

More on the Care for People workshop programme in this month's ScoRDS update.



Recovery guidance

Preparing Scotland guidance on the management of 'recovery' is being prepared for publication in early 2010.

The guidance is intended to help those preparing generic management arrangements and will consider the complex social and economic rehabilitation involving local responders and communities.

Management of recovery is critical to its success and will be integrated with other arrangements described in *Preparing Scotland*.

Local responders and practitioners can inform the development of the guidance. If you have any views please tell us by contacting Preparing.Scotland@Scotland.gsi.gov.uk or calling Ian Jordan on 07920 549713. Draft guidance will be circulated for your comments.

Building fuel resilience

SCG fuel practitioners in Scotland met with Scottish Government on 17 September to discuss key areas of fuel resilience.

“We went through the latest version of the UK National Emergency Plan for Fuel (version 3) and provided practitioners with an update on the changes made by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) since version 2,” says Bobby Ronnie, Head of Energy and Telecoms Resilience.

“We also updated them on the fuel resilience work-streams being taken forward by Scottish Government.

“Finally, we discussed the ongoing development of fuel mutual aid arrangements and agreed to establish a working group to develop *Preparing Scotland* guidance aimed at improving fuel resilience in SCGs. The aim is to have the guidance ready next spring.”

More information from Bobby.Ronnie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Scottish Resilience News

Scottish Resilience News is published every two months by the Scottish Government.

The newsletter aims to keep the resilience community up-to-date with what's happening at Scottish Government level and across Scotland. If you have comments or ideas for future issues, please contact the editor at Joanna.Swanson@Scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Scottish Resilience

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Frontworks rest centre software update

The web-based management application that will help local authorities and the police to reunite those affected by emergencies with their loved ones has now been adopted by all Scotland's 32 local authorities.

The system, previously covered in February's *CCU News*, means the details of members of the public who have been evacuated to emergency rest centres will be readily available to partner agencies across all eight SCGs. It was pioneered by Lothian and Borders SCG in collaboration with IBM and Frontworks and supported by over £120,000 from Scottish Government.

Jim Gill, emergency planning officer at

Scottish Borders Council, said: “Dealing with evacuees can be chaotic, with distressed friends and family calling authorities or helplines to check the wellbeing and whereabouts of their loved ones or conducting searches themselves. A paper based system across several sites makes it almost impossible to quickly reassure relatives and there is more room for inaccuracy.

“This cost-effective and easy-to-manage online tool will improve the level and speed of data access, which in turn will greatly improve the level of service we are able to offer members of the public.”

More information from JHGill@scotborders.gsx.gov.uk.

Fire and rescue service gold command training

Following successful deliveries of Scottish Silver Command Programmes last year, the first Scottish Gold Command Programme took place at Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Headquarters in July.

This collaboration between the Scottish Fire Services College (SFSC) and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue aimed to equip strategic incident commanders with the skills to enable competent decision making and implementation of the Gold Fire Commander's role at large, diverse, multi-

agency incidents.

It included presentations from multi-agency partners, and from Solicitor Advocate Mark Scoggins on corporate risk in the aftermath of major incidents.

The programme also included 'Gold' Hydra exercises, and each attendee was formally assessed and debriefed.

Area Manager Garry Burnett, Head of Programme Delivery at SFSC, said: “Our effective collaboration with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue has delivered a

Gold Programme that serves the needs of strategic commanders.”

David Hutchison, Assistant Chief Officer, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, added: “This initiative is designed to ensure that fire and rescue personnel gain the skills, knowledge and understanding to carry out their role effectively and efficiently.”

The final gold command programme this year takes place in November. More information from Garry.Burnett@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Secondment opportunity within Scottish Resilience

Rod McKenzie will leave Scottish Resilience early next year after five years on secondment from City of Edinburgh Council. We wish Rod all the best, and thank him for his valuable contribution.

As an organisation, we are keen to bring in expertise and are looking for expressions of interest in a secondment into Scottish Resilience. In particular, the secondee post would involve project management of the Scottish Resilience Framework Cycle (including work on risk, analysing capabilities and embedding the system of Measuring Preparedness). The post would also support the future development of *Preparing Scotland*.

We would ideally look for the postholder to be in place no later than early 2010. The duration of the secondment would be by mutual agreement with the seconding organisation. Please contact Shuna.Cant@scotland.gsi.gov.uk for an outline post specification. Expressions of interest should be sent to Shuna by 30 October.