

# C359

## West Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Panel 16 February 2012

### Emergency Planning and Responses

#### 1. Incidents

##### 1.1 IFF Haverhill - Aluminium Chloride spill onsite on 18 July 2011.

500Kgs of Aluminium Chloride (Al-Ch) in powder form was spilt whilst being unloaded from a tanker. Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service (SFRS) and the Joint Emergency Planning Unit (JEPU) Duty Officer attended scene. Whilst Al-Ch is stable whilst dry if it is mixed with water Chlorine would be emitted.

Incident dealt with on site by IFF Safety & Fire teams along with SFRS by covering the spillage to protect it from rain. IFF staff recovered the powder the following day for subsequent disposal.

SFRS, as the lead agency, coordinated the Warning and Informing aspects through the Suffolk County Council Communication Team. Media briefings issued to other agencies as per the agreed process.

##### 1.2 Plovers Way, Nowton – Suspected bomb making materials found during Police search of premises on 12 October 2011.

Residents of the adjacent three or four properties self-evacuated whilst Police and Military Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team conducted a more thorough search and investigation. It was concluded that the quantities and the specific materials did not pose a significant risk and the incident was closed.

##### 1.3 Lakenheath Gun Club fire on 3 December 2011.

Attended by eight appliances. The main concern was the potential explosive risk from the ammunition stored onsite. JEPU Duty Officer informed who contacted Forest Heath District Council Corporate Management Team to make them aware. No further local authority involvement.

##### 1.4 Op Eydon – Objects thrown from bridges, December 2011 and January 2012.

A multi-agency approach was taken to dealing with a spate of incidents with Community Safety teams representing local authorities.

This has now been downgraded from a 'Critical Incident' by Suffolk Police.

## **2. Exercises**

### **2.1 Exercise AVON on 1 September 2011.**

A full exercise for Management Team, Emergency Control Centre and Rest Centre teams at FHDC based on a concurrent Fuel Spill Exercise being undertaken by United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE) at RAF Mildenhall. Incident notification received via SFRS, Management Team convened and ECC and RC teams activated. Rest Centre set up in Council Chamber with staff playing role of evacuees.

### **2.2 IFF Haverhill Offsite Plan Table Top Exercise (TTX).**

A multi-agency TTX to test the IFF Offsite Plan as per the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations. Completed successfully and to the satisfaction of the Health and Safety Executive, minor modifications to be made to the Offsite Plan.

### **2.3 Exercise BANN on 1 and 8 December 2011.**

Table Top Exercise for the Management Team (MT) at St Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC) based on the scenario used at the IFF Exercise but focusing on the implications for SEBC. Due to difficulties with scheduling MT was broken into two separate groups to increase levels of participation.

### **2.4 Exercises planned**

#### **(a) Exercise Rebound - A multi-agency Suffolk Resilience Forum (SRF) exercise focusing on the recovery from a major incident on 29 February 2012.**

Local Authorities lead the Recovery phase, and, although an SRF Recovery Plan is in place it has not been tested, either through an exercise or through a live incident.

The scenario follows on from Exercise Watermark, a national coastal flood exercise held in March 2011, and the scope has been widened to include severe rainfall that causes flooding across the county. Officers from all eight authorities will be attending as will representatives from other agencies and some Elected Members will be observing.

#### **(b) Calor Saxham Offsite Plan – Multi-agency exercise to validate the Offsite Plan scheduled for 14 March 2012.**

## **3. Training**

3.1 AIMS, ECC and RC Refresher Training courses have taken with attendees from both authorities attending.

3.2 The FHDC Chief Executive, FHDC Strategic Director (Resources), FHDC Strategic Director (Services) and the SEBC Corporate Director Economy and Environment have attended the 'Chief Executives - Your Role in Civil Protection' course run by the Emergency Planning College.

3.3 The FHDC Head of Corporate Development attended a multi-agency Tactical Coordinating Group (Silver) course on 18 January 2012. Further officers, at Head of Service level, from both authorities are on the waiting list for future courses.

- 3.4 A 3 hour Elected Member training/exercise session for the West area took place on 4 October 2011. Feedback from the members that attended was very positive and they felt that it was very worthwhile attending, and that all members should be encouraged to attend a similar session.
- 3.5 The Management Teams, the ECC Managers and the RC Managers at both authorities have had briefing sessions on the Suffolk Joint Emergency Response Plan (JERP) that was issued in November 2011.

#### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 The Panel is recommended to **NOTE** the contents of this report.

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