

AMESBURY BRADFORD ON AVON CALNE CHIPPENHAM CORSHAM DEVIZES DOWNTON MALMESBURY  
MARLBOROUGH MELKSHAM MERE PEWSEY SALISBURY TIDWORTH TISBURY TROWBRIDGE WARMINSTER  
WESTBURY WILTON WOOTTON BASSETT & CRICKLADE WILTSHIRE'S COMMUNITY AREAS

# Emergency Planning NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2007

ISSUE 1

**Welcome** to the Emergency Planning Unit's new **e-mail** Newsletter. This replaces our previous newsletter which we used to distribute in paper format only. This is in line with Wiltshire County Council's Environmental Policy for reducing the amount of paper used. We will of course continue to send paper copies to those who do not have e-mail facilities. The new system will enable us to publish the newsletter more often and it will help to ensure that items remain topical. It is intended to also make the newsletter available on our web site. Using this means we will also be able to provide more up to the minute information in the event of any major emergency or incident that affects the county.

## **CEPO's UPDATE**

Firstly, I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and I'd just like to wish you all a happy, peaceful and prosperous New Year. We had hoped to get the Newsletter out to you before Christmas but as with all new concepts we hit a few minor snags and had to delay the release. Still, here we are at the start of 2007, running up to the end of the financial year and putting the finishing touches to the work plan for 2007/2008.

This year we will be running a number of projects to bring our plans up to date with changes in regulations and to meet the lessons learned from a number of incidents which have occurred throughout the UK in the past year or so. Mainly we will be focussing on our Humanitarian Assistance plans and how we provide services to the public during a major incident. We will also be bringing a Site Clearance and Recovery Plan into being; this will aid us in further meeting our objectives under the Civil Contingencies Act.

I am also planning a Consultation exercise which will focus on how well you think we are doing in the provision of a range of services and how and where you think we could improve. We will value your comments/observations and they will assist us in being able to focus on the services you feel would be more beneficial to yourselves at community level.

I will provide a more in depth report on the new work plans and exercises when I have finalised the arrangements in order to keep you better informed. With the new system in place we will be able to communicate more frequently and pass on important information as and when it becomes available.

Thank you for your valued and continued support and I look forward to working with you all over the next twelve months.

Mark Kimberlin  
County Emergency Planning Officer

## TRAINING & EXERCISES

### Exercise WIRE 2

Four table-top incident room exercises were held during September/early October involving the four Districts of Salisbury, West Wilts, Kennet and North Wiltshire, Wiltshire County Council Emergency Planning and Incident Room staff, Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service. The exercise scenario was generic in order to suit all participants. It was based upon a large fire in a furniture factory and leakage of solvents from a tanker effecting the environment, scheduled football matches and blocking roads. District Local Authority Incident Officers (LAIOs) worked alongside the emergency services at Trowbridge Fire Station and reported back to the respective Council Incident Rooms making requests for resources to deal with the incident. All the LAIOs found the exercise beneficial and the incident rooms were given the chance to practice taking messages and to use the new message handling forms.

### Exercise Blue Phoenix Rising

A live exercise was held at RAF Lyneham on August 3<sup>rd</sup> in order to test their on-site response to an airfield accident. The scenario was a malfunction with a Hercules carrying civilian passengers which resulted in the aircraft veering off the runway on landing causing significant injuries to the passengers as well as some fatalities. Wiltshire civilian emergency services responded alongside the MOD players and casualty simulators with very realistic wounds played the injured. The EPU training officer with responsibility for Lyneham's off-site plan observed the exercise alongside the EPU's summer placement.



### Exercise Vincent

On September 25<sup>th</sup> the Joint Support Unit at Basil Hill and Rudloe in Corsham ran a large scale live exercise designed to test the on-site plans and how they integrate with the civilian responders. The scenario involved a tanker explosion resulting in the loss of an important building and the evacuation of another; and also left dead and many injured. Casualty simulators were used for the injured and dummies were left in situ to mimic the deceased.



Smoke generators, smoke grenades and Chinese fireworks were used to simulate the explosion to create a more realistic field in which to respond. The scenario was also specifically designed to incorporate the staffing and running of a Survivor Reception Centre, which is a building provided to house people caught up in and affected by an incident, who may be able to provide the police with eyewitness accounts. This centre was staffed by members of Wiltshire's Department of Adult and Community Services, the British Red Cross, the Salvation Army, St John Ambulance and Swindon' Royal Voluntary Service (formerly Swindon WRVS). The military provided two hundred evacuees, which was slightly more than expected, which gave the staff quite a stressful time in registering and de-registering them all. The exercise was

extremely successful but did highlight some issues which are now being taken forward in order to improve certain aspects of response from all parties. The live exercise was followed on the 26<sup>th</sup> by a business continuity exercise conducted solely by the MOD which was based upon the live exercise.

### PARISH EXERCISE WINDFALL

Parish exercises were held in October and November. A total of 22 parishes participated over the two evenings. The format of the exercises remained the same in the form of a table-top with envelopes containing the scenario and further injects to be opened at specific times. Members of the EPU again played the roles of agencies the parishes would contact in such a scenario. Response from parishes has been positive; with many feeling the exercises are useful for raising awareness. We are looking at possibly changing the format for 2007.

### **Multi Faith Training**

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of November, Wiltshire Emergency Planning Unit and Swindon Borough Council hosted multi faith training for the faith groups in Wiltshire and Swindon, one in Salisbury and one at Bishops Cannings, Devizes. Each day consisted of multi-agency presentations on emergency response. It showed the faith groups how they fit into integrated emergency response, and also highlighted the need to be aware of diverse belief systems.

### **COMMUNITY EMERGENCY VOLUNTEERS**

Currently 147 of the parishes in Wiltshire have a CEV with a further 32 having more than one. This means that 106 parishes are still without a specific point of contact in relation to emergency planning matters.

The next evening training session for new volunteers is on 19 February 2007. It will be held at County Hall, Trowbridge and will last approximately 3 hrs starting at 6.30 pm.

**If any parish now wishes to nominate a volunteer to fulfil this role they should contact the emergency planning unit accordingly.**

Please contact the Emergency Planning Unit in one of the following ways:

**Address: Emergency Planning Unit, Wiltshire County Council, County Hall, Trowbridge BA14 8JD**

**Email: [emergencyplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:emergencyplanning@wiltshire.gov.uk)**

**Tel: 01225 713159**

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