



**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EMERGENCY PLANNING UNIT**

Committee Report

Meeting : CIVIL CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE : 15 MARCH 2010

Subject : NORLAND ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Report of the Chief Emergency Planning Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the Norland Annual Report 2009. The Norland Annual Report aims to:

- provide resilience partner agencies with an outline of the Norland exercises held during 2009;
- provide details of the individuals and agencies participating in each exercise;
- highlight issues to be addressed by relevant sub groups; and
- identify recommendations to be taken forward during the 2010 series.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. The Norland Series of Tabletop exercises has been an integral part of the Northumbria exercise calendar since 1995, with 80 exercises completed to date and over 2,300 people involved. During this time the series has helped to develop the capability of organisations and individuals to respond to emergencies / major incidents.

2.2. Norland is a multi-agency exercise programme which, until 2009, focused on emergency response at a Silver/Tactical level. All exercises are table top in format and provide the opportunity for designated representatives from responders to experience incident management in the areas of:

- Multi-agency Silver Command (lead by Northumbria Police)
- Local Authority Tactical Command
- Health Services Tactical Command

2.3 The Norland exercises focus on the response procedures particular to individual local authority areas and therefore requires a minimum of 6 exercises per year and significant input from the local authorities. This enables officers from Gateshead, Newcastle, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Sunderland and Northumberland to work alongside emergency responders in response to a given scenario.

- 2.4 The exercise scenarios are chosen on the basis of risk to the North East area and focus on those risks identified as High or Medium in the Community Risk Register. Over the years Norland has explored the multi-agency response to:
- Severe Weather
 - Flooding
 - Transport Incidents (Rail, Road, Air and Sea)
 - Hazardous Chemicals
- 2.5 Each year the chosen scenario is normally the same for all Norland exercises, this allows for continuous evaluation and development of the exercise aims and objectives.

3. NORLAND EXERCISES 2009

- 3.1 In response to an agreement at the Northumbria LRF in 2008 the Norland series from 2009 includes two Gold/Strategic exercises as part of a three year rolling programme which will provide the opportunity for the six local authority areas to participate at Gold/Strategic level.
- 3.2 Seven Norland exercises were originally planned for 2009. The outbreak of Influenza A/H1N1 (swine flu) necessitated the postponement of the North Tyneside event to allow for the planning and delivery of Influenza Awareness event in July which was made available to all Northumbria area responders. In addition, following the Morpeth flooding in September 2008, it was agreed that the proposed dates for the two Northumberland exercises would be utilised for flood related events instead.
- 3.3 This resulted in four Norland exercises actually taking place during 2009 (including two at a strategic level) involving 205 participants, plus a further 100 personnel who were also involved as technical advisers and observers from 27 different agencies, for all of the exercises held. This was despite the impact of influenza A/H1N1 on partner agencies and the effort and commitment of all members of the Norland planning team and other colleagues should be noted.

4. NORLAND REPORT 2009

- 4.1 The evaluation report (attached) provides a detailed review of the 2009 series and is made available to all emergency responding organisations and to all exercise participants. It was submitted to Northumbria LRF for approval at its meeting on 3 March 2010.
- 4.2 The report identifies emergency response issues and recommendations resulting from the series (see p14 of report) requiring further action by resilience partners.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Norland Series continues to deliver effective multi agency tabletop exercises and, with the addition of a strategic element, has strengthened the role that the Norland Series plays within the Northumbria LRF. This was highlighted by a comment received from an observer during one of the strategic exercises:

'This is a quantum leap in quality of training and value of learning. Engagement was holistic and many delegates had their capabilities extended. This is a product that should be marketed by its deliverer'.

- 5.2 The Exercise and Training Group and Norland Planning Team members continue to improve the effectiveness and quality of this important and challenging area of resilience activity; and have done so - with the support from other agencies that played in the exercises, and the input from LAs to help develop the scenario; despite the additional pressures caused by the Influenza A/H1N1 pandemic.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 Members are requested to note this report.
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BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual report

