



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

Committee Report

Meeting: CIVIL CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE: 1 DECEMBER 2008.

Subject: National Emergency Mortuary Arrangements (N.E.M.A.)

Report of the Chief Emergency Planning Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform members of the recent visit by a representative of Tyne and Wear Emergency Planning Unit to the open day held in relation to the National Emergency Mortuary Arrangements (N.E.M.A.)
- 1.2 The visit was organised by the Regional Resilience Team from Government Office for the North East, and was attended by representatives from Emergency Planning units and Councils from across the North East Region.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is the Government's objective to ensure that arrangements are in place to deal with large numbers of fatalities resulting from a major incident. The response to such incidents will involve identifying the dead, investigating cause of death, and disposing of human remains in a safe and decent manner.
- 2.2 Local Authorities are responsible for establishing and equipping mortuaries required in a mass fatalities emergency. A formal agreement is currently in place to use a private mortuary facility in South Tyneside, albeit with limited capacity.
- 2.3 Additional sites have been also identified throughout Tyne and Wear for the use of demountable structures to increase the capacity of these existing arrangements.
- 2.4 The visit to N.E.M.A. was hosted by KBR, the company who operate the contract for the Home Office for the provision of temporary mortuary facilities, with the capability to deal with mass fatalities
- 2.5 The open day consisted of a brief presentation on the operation of the facility, with the opportunity to see the equipment and discuss any issues with the contractor and representative from the Home Office
- 2.6 The KBR emergency mortuary is a module solution designed to enable the establishment of a fully functional mortuary. It includes all necessary equipment for processing the deceased, including chilled

body storage, radiology, family viewing areas, staff changing and catering facilities, exhibit storage, offices, security fencing, temporary roads and walkways, power generation and distribution and climate control.

- 2.7 The module could be deployed anywhere in the UK within 24 hours of notification, and operational within 72 hours.

3. OUTCOME

- 3.1 The visit was considered to be very worthwhile, as it gave the representatives the opportunity to view the structures and equipment, and also discuss the arrangements directly with the contractor and Home Office representative
- 3.2 It also allowed people to be aware of the local issues which needed to be considered in identifying suitable sites to locate the structures, specifically in terms of size of the site, access to the site and proximity to surrounding properties..

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Civil Contingencies Committee Report : Mass Fatalities July 2007