



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

***Committee Report***

**Meeting: CIVIL CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE: 18th JANUARY 2010**

**Subject: LOGISTIC OPERATIONS FOR EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

***Report of the Chief Emergency Planning Officer***

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Cabinet Office has recently published guidance for emergency planners on Logistic Operations for Emergency Supplies. The objective of the guidance is to provide a common understanding of options available to emergency planners for the coordination, prioritisation and acquisition of emergency supplies.
- 1.2 This report is to brief members on the background to this issue and to advise that a new Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Working Group has been established, led by TWEPU, in order to consider how to improve critical supply procedures in emergency plans.

**2 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 In his report into the Yorkshire flooding Sir Michael Pitt's enquiry found that arrangements for providing critical supplies during the emergency were often ad-hoc, which delayed the response and provision of care to the community. In some cases a substantial contribution from the armed forces was required to cope. His interim report urgently recommended:

*'the Cabinet Office, with other departments, should urgently consider the costs, benefits and feasibility of establishing arrangements for the urgent acquisition of supplies during an emergency, including the use of colloff contracts or the creation of national or regional stockpiles of equipment and consumables'.*

*Urgent Recommendation 6, Pitt Interim Report*

- 2.2 The Government accepted this recommendation and addressed it through a Cabinet Office led paper on logistic operations. The study found:

- Formal logistics cells are rarely planned for in advance as part of a standard emergency response structure;

- For complex or large scale emergencies there is often a reliance on mutual aid from neighbouring agencies including other Local Authorities;
- Local Resilience Forums (LRF's) often seek support from logistic operations professionals, such as the military, British Red Cross, or contractors;
- Stockpiles of supplies exist at a local and national level. Reliance on stockpiles at a local level varies between LRF's. For example vaccines are stockpiled at a national level while some organisations within LRF's have stockpiles, and; Local Authorities often have blankets for rest centres or sandbags for residential flood defence.

2.3 In conclusion, although there were local examples of good practice for logistic operations, there was no consistent national programme for the acquisition and deployment of emergency supplies.

### **3 NATIONAL GUIDANCE**

3.1 As a consequence, national guidance was published which sets out the expected roles of LRF led logistic support cells; Government Offices in the Regions; and central government. Based on local level best practice, the guidance also provides a check list of options and considerations for prioritising requirements for emergency supplies, and choosing the appropriate method of supply acquisition. The guidance is based on the following principles:

- Local Resilience Forums should set up a multi-agency logistic support capability as a standard part of their emergency planning, response and recovery arrangements.
- Regional Offices should facilitate logistic support arrangements within a region.
- Central Government should provide strategic guidance and advice; also support and co-ordination in the event of exceptional circumstances.

3.2 The Cabinet Office considered that Local Resilience Forums were best placed to undertake an assessment of emergency supplies that might be needed in their area, based on Community Risk Registers. It suggested that LRF's should also consider setting up Logistic Support Cells to co-ordinate supplies as part of the overall command process during widespread emergencies.

3.3 However, as LRF's are neither staffed nor funded in a manner that would provide the resource required for putting in place a logistic operations plan, it proposed that LRF's should therefore coordinate a

network of agencies, which together would establish local logistic plans, allocate owners of specific items/resources, oversee the implementation of the plan and coordinate the activation of the plan in the event of an emergency. Appendix A illustrates what is generally meant by logistic supplies.

#### **4 NORTHUMBRIA LRF LOGISTICS WORKING GROUP**

4.1 In September 2009, the Northumbria LRF agreed to establish a Logistics Working Group, with a membership to be drawn from LRF responder organisations. The remit of the Working Group is to provide an overview of the critical areas of weakness of emergency supplies and options to improve resilience of critical supplies. The Working Group is led by a T&WEPU Senior Resilience Officer, and is supported by the Northumbria LRF Programme Manager.

4.2 Logistic support cells are required to:

- Conduct advance risk based planning, based on their community risk register, for the delivery of logistic support in an emergency;
- Allocate an owner for key items;
- Oversee and document the planning process including methods of acquisition, distribution and replenishment;
- Maintain and possibly map a record of local and regional logistic capability;
- Provide the basis of a multi-agency logistic support cell for use in an emergency;
- Provide the focus of planning for mutual aid, and its delivery in an emergency;
- Supervise any exercising of logistic support arrangements;
- Coordinate the activation of the arrangements in the event of an emergency within Strategic Coordinating Group;
- Have as members, or be in contact with, trained procurement staff, including military Joint Regional Liaison Officers.

4.3 The Northumbria Logistics Working Group has thus proposed the following as its initial objectives, drawn from the Cabinet Office guidelines:

- To identify critical supply gaps in existing plans by a sample baseline survey related to the Community Risk Register.
- To produce plan writing guidance on how to incorporate Supply Logistics into existing plans to address the gaps identified
- To advise the LRF on how to include Supply Logistics in LRF level emergency working procedures

#### **5 BASELINE SURVEY OF SUPPLY LOGISTICS IN EMERGENCY PLANS**

- 5.1 Progress on the first objective the baseline survey of sample emergency plans has provided a backdrop to the gaps in logistics procedures in emergency plans. The issues raised in the Cabinet Office national survey are reflected in the current logistic supply arrangements in existing plans.
- 5.2 The gaps identified will provide a useful starting point from which to develop improved supply arrangements in emergency plans.

## **6 NEXT STEPS**

- 6.1 The Working Group will need to agree the baseline survey findings and then determine how to develop guidelines for emergency planners and operational managers to ensure that supply logistic procedures in emergency plans are sufficient to provide ongoing supply of critical supplies during an emergency.
- 6.2 The findings of the Working Group will be reported through the LRF for discussion and agreement with all responders and agreement on the next steps.

## **7 RECOMMENDATION**

- 7.1 Members are asked to note this Report, to approve the initial work programme, and to receive further progress reports on this subject as appropriate.
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### **Background Papers**

The under-mentioned Background Papers relate to the subject matter of the above report and are held in the EPU office:-

- Cabinet Office guidelines “Logistic Operations for Emergency Supplies”
- Northumbria LRF Logistics Working Group Scoping Paper

## LOGISTIC SUPPLIES

- 1 Emergency supplies can be classified into two groups:
  - a. Common supplies used in a number of types of emergency e.g. beds, blankets, food;
  - b. Items that are unusual or of a unique nature specific to the type of incident e.g. high volume pumps.
  
- 2 Common supplies are usually readily available on the market, whilst the unusual or unique may be less commonly available. Examples of emergency supplies include:
  - Medical supplies
  - Wheelchairs, baby buggies, nappies, baby food; Sterilising equipment for water and utensils
  - Radios and batteries
  - Food, Cooking equipment
  - Satellite phones
  - Emergency lighting, Power generators, Power cables
  - Bottled water, Water bowsers
  - Fuel
  - Buses/public transport/PSV drivers
  - Blankets, warm clothing, waterproofs
  - 4x4 and specialist rescue vehicles
  - Tents and temporary shelters
  - Inflatable dinghies, Life jackets
  - Portaloos
  - Buckets, Shovels
  - Flood barriers
  - High capacity water pumps
  
- 3 The spectrum of supply options includes:
  - a. Community resources – supplies held by individuals, businesses, organisations and community groups.
  - b. 'Just in time':
    - i) adhoc sourcing – where no prior research has been conducted into suppliers or the market;
    - ii) recessed capabilities where prior research into the market provides reassurance that the items could be provided on demand.
  - c. Mutual aid arrangements – agreements to share resources between organisations within an LRF or beyond.
  - d. Virtual stockpiles: Prearranged call-off contracts for specific supplies.
  - e. Physical stockpiles – often used for custom made items, or those with long lead times or weak supply chains.

