



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

Committee Report

Meeting: CIVIL CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2008

Subject: NATIONAL EMERGENCY PLAN - FUEL (NEP-F) UPDATE

Report of the Chief Emergency Planning Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update of progress following the release of Version 2 of the National Emergency Plan – Fuel (NEP-F). This plan has been published by the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR).
- 1.2 BERR has Lead Government Department responsibility for coordinating the response to major incidents for a number of key services and industries vital to public safety.

2. PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

- 2.1 The NEP-F was originally distributed in November 2007. The plan identifies how the resources of downstream oil industry and the Government can be utilised in an emergency involving a significant disruption to oil supplies in the UK.
- 2.2 Following a table top exercise of the plan held in North Yorkshire in June 2007, which looked at impacts on the emergency services, agriculture and rural communities, tourism, media messages, health and social care, education, and reporting lines to central government (COB(R)), Version 2 has now been released and the protective marking of the document downgraded from Restricted to Protect. Protect is applied to sensitive information that needs to be protected which does not have a national security dimension.
- 2.3 The plan would be activated only if there was potential for widespread disruption in the UK. Whilst detailed arrangements cannot be published in this report due to the plan having 'Protect' status, in broad terms the actions outline provision for communicating information to the public about any disruption, including messages about conserving fuel, using public transport, and also how the emergency services would ensure access to fuel.

3. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE LRF

- 3.1 To address the implications of a potential disruption, the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) has established a multi agency Task and Finish Fuel Planning Group to consider the practical implementation issues within the Northumbria area. The group also includes members from the emergency services, TWEPU and local authorities. At the last meeting of the group, it was agreed that an invitation should be extended to relevant fuel retailers to attend a briefing session on the plan; identify any local practical implementation issues; and establish working relationships with appropriate representatives of the fuel retail sector in advance of any disruption.
- 3.2 This briefing had now taken place and was attended by multi agency partners drawn from the LRF membership, together with GONE, LA Highways officers, NHS, and relevant senior representatives of the fuel retail sector. The roles and responsibilities of local responders and operators were clarified and some practical issues identified that require clarification such as the reimbursement of costs, and lead times for the production of signage, were addressed.

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 The group will look at issues surrounding the potential for disruption on a local level and maintain contact with local suppliers to address any emerging issues. The group will also review provision of public messages, as well as production of signage for those suppliers affected by any disruption. The group will also put into place arrangements for reporting information back to central government.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Members are asked to:
 - b) Note this report and agree to receive updates as appropriate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None