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

***Committee Report***

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

**Subject : UPDATE OF NORTHUMBRIA COMMUNITY RISK REGISTER**

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

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the update of the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Community Risk Register (CRR).
- 1.2 The CRR is an important document produced following extensive work by partners within the LRF area. It provides a basis for local responders to consider which emergency plans are required, and whether any existing plans should be modified in the light of continuing risk assessment. It is also used to determine priorities for the LRF annual training and exercising calendar.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1 According to 'Emergency Preparedness', the Guidance to the Civil Contingencies Act (CAA) 2004, risk assessment is the first step in the emergency planning and business continuity planning processes, it ensures that Category 1 and 2 responders make plans that are sound and proportionate to risks.
- 2.2 As part of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) process, Category 1 and 2 responders must co-operate with each other in maintaining the CRR. The Register provides an agreed position on the risks affecting a local area and on the planning and resourcing priorities required to prepare for those risks.
- 2.3 Its purpose is to enable Responders to:
  - be fully informed of the risks of emergency in its area;
  - benefit from the range of views on risk of its partners on the LRF;
  - identify collectively the main local emergency plans and capabilities which are needed;
  - decide which of the plans and capabilities should properly fall to it; and
  - know which of its partners in the LRF acknowledges responsibility for developing plans and capabilities against the various risks.

- 2.4 The Guidance advocates a six-step process for risk assessment that reflects widely accepted good practice. It involves a cycle of identifying potential hazards within the local context (see Annex 1), assessing the risks, and considering how those risks should be managed.

### **3. NORTHUMBRIA LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM RISK ASSESSMENT WORKING GROUP (RAWG)**

- 3.1 The RAWG is chaired by the Head of Resilience for Northumberland County Council, with an officer from Tyne & Wear Emergency Planning Unit representing the 5 x Tyne and Wear Local Authorities and providing support to the Chair.

- 3.2 Other RAWG members include representatives of; the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Northumbria Police, Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service (also representing Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service), North East Ambulance Service Trust, the Health Protection Agency, the Environment Agency and the Health and Safety Executive. Meetings are also attended by representatives of Northumbrian Water, Transco, CE Electric and the Government Office North East Regional Resilience Team.

- 3.3 The RAWG tasks include;

- To facilitate co-operation on risk assessment between all relevant Category 1 and 2 Responders, other local bodies or regional and national organisations.
- To identify and recommend the adoption of sound methodology for risk assessment using best available guidance.
- To facilitate the creation and maintenance of a Community Risk Register for the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum area.

### **4. ASSESSMENT OF RISK**

- 4.1 There is a duty placed on Category 1 and 2 responders to assess the risk of an emergency within, or affecting, a geographical area for which each responder is responsible. The term 'Emergency', as defined in the Act, is an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the United Kingdom, an event or situation which threatens serious damage to the environment of a place in the United Kingdom, or war, or terrorism, which threatens serious damage to the security of the United Kingdom.

- 4.2 It must also meet either of the following criteria:

- The hazard is of a sufficient scale and nature that it is likely to seriously obstruct a Category 1 or 2 responder in the performance of its functions.
- The hazard requires the Category 1 or 2 responder to undertake a special mobilisation.

### **5. COMPILATION OF THE COMMUNITY RISK REGISTER**

- 5.1 Each year the Government produces a 'Local Risk Assessment Guidance' for LRF RAWGs. It is intended to support RAWGs in developing their local risk assessments by providing central guidance on the likelihood of some potential disruptive challenges, and promote consistency in approach across the country.
- 5.2 In addition, in 2008 for the first time, the Government published an unclassified National Risk Register (NRR) that sets out its assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different risks that might affect the UK.
- 5.3 The Northumbria RAWG has met regularly over the year to review the CRR, identifying appropriate risks within the area, and undertaking assessments of those risks. This allowed comparisons to be made and facilitated the procedure of risks being prioritised. The assessments and guidance contained within the Lrag and NRR were considered when making these assessments.
- 5.4 A draft CRR was circulated to the Northumbria LRF, and the CRR Version 5 was formally approved by the LRF Chair on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

## **6. PUBLICATION OF THE COMMUNITY RISK REGISTER**

- 6.1 The Act requires that the Register be published. The latest version (V5) of the CRR is available on the Government Office for the North East website; [www.go-ne.gov.uk/gone/prepforemergencies](http://www.go-ne.gov.uk/gone/prepforemergencies).
- 6.2 Having the CRR hosted on a central web-site, with links from the web-sites of partner organisations, is an effective method of meeting the requirements of the Act, including the right of public access.

## **7. CO-OPERATION**

- 7.1 Statutory Guidance requires that the CRR is shared with LRFs with whom there is a common boundary and a copy should also be provided to the Regional Resilience Team of the Government Office for the Region.
- 7.2 Given that the Durham and Darlington, and the Cleveland LRF CRRs are also published on the GO-NE web-site means this legal requirement is satisfied. In addition, the Northumbria LRF RAWG Chair and the officer from Tyne & Wear Emergency Planning Unit have recently met with RAWG representatives from those areas to discuss common wide area risks.

## **8 CONCLUSION**

- 8.1 The publication of the update of the Northumbria LRF CRR, developed by the RAWG, was approved by the LRF and has been duly published. It provides the basis to determine priorities for the LRF annual training and exercising calendar for 2010.

## **9 RECOMMENDATION**

9.1 Members are asked to note the publication of Version 5 of the Northumbria LRF Community Risk Register.

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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:-

- Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- “Emergency Preparedness’ Guidance on Part 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- The National Risk Register 2009
- The Local Risk Assessment Guidance 2008 (Restricted)
- Northumbria Local Resilience Forum Community Risk Register Version 5

## **ANNEX 1**

# **Northumbria Risk Register – Context Document**

**Northumbria Local Resilience Forum  
Community Risk Register  
December 2010**

## **The Northumbria Local Resilience Forum Community Risk Register**

The Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Community Risk Register (CRR) is published in compliance with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CC Act) (Section 2 (1)) and is hosted on the Government Office for the North East website [www.go-ne.gov.uk/gone/prepforemergencies](http://www.go-ne.gov.uk/gone/prepforemergencies).

More information on the CC Act can be found at:

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience)

The CRR is an important document produced following extensive work by the partners within the Northumbria LRF area. The CRR provides a basis for local responders to consider which emergency plans are required and whether any existing plans should be modified in the light of the risk assessment. This in turn leads to an extensive training schedule for those involved and an exercise calendar testing emergency plans across Northumbria.

The inclusion of these hazards or the particular scenario (for instance, the outcome description) does not mean that the Northumbria LRF believes the risk will materialise, or that if it were to do so, it would be at that scale. The risk scenarios are rather reasonable worse case assumptions upon which our risk assessment is based.

The likelihood assessments relate to the risk occurring over a five-year period at the magnitude reflected within the outcome description. The magnitude is based on an assessment of a reasonable worse case scenario.

As part of the risk assessment process, we have been considering the likelihood and impact of a range of hazards occurring. This work, a statutory requirement under the CC Act, is a continuing process and examples are provided for all of the hazards to illustrate the individual assessment work that has been completed so far. It is our intention to make further details available via this website as and when it is practical and appropriate to do so.

The attached risk assessments only cover non-malicious events (for instance, hazards) rather than threats (for instance, terrorist incidents). This does not mean that we are not considering threats within our risk assessment work, but given the sensitivity of the information supporting these risk assessments and the potential for use by adversaries, Central Government has advised that specific details should not be made available in the CRR published on this website. The National Risk Register, which sets out an assessment of the likelihood and potential impact of a range of different risks that may directly affect the UK, can be found at:

[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/national\\_risk\\_register.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/national_risk_register.aspx)

Risk assessment is not a static process and is subject to constant review. As a result, the information contained in the register published on this website will be regularly updated.

The Northumbria LRF CRR has been produced by a Risk Assessment Working Group (RAWG) chaired by Ian Clough, Head of Resilience, Northumberland County Council. The CRR is based upon risk assessment work undertaken at a regional level, supplemented by local assessments carried out by local lead assessors who are members of the Northumbria LRF RAWG. The RAWG comprises representatives from the emergency services, Health and Safety Executive, Health Protection Agency, Environment Agency, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, utilities companies and local authorities in Tyne and Wear and Northumberland. Government Office for the North East has also played an advisory role. The membership of the RAWG is detailed within the CRR.

### **Northumbria LRF Membership**

The Northumbria LRF is established under the CC Act. It's members are as follows:

**Category One Responders** (those organisations to which the full provisions of the CC Act apply)

Newcastle City Council

Sunderland City Council

Gateshead Council

North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council

South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council

Northumberland County Council

Northumbria Police

British Transport Police

North East Ambulance Service

Northumberland Fire and Rescue Service

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Marine and Coastguard Agency

Environment Agency

Tyne Port Health Authority

River Blyth Port Health Authority

Health Protection Agency

Health Services:

North of Tyne Primary Care Trust (PCT)

South of Tyne Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Northumberland Hospital Trust

Newcastle Hospital Trust

Gateshead Hospital Trust

Sunderland Hospital Trust

South Tyneside Hospital Trust

North Tyneside Hospital Trust

**Category Two Responders** (those organisations which have a supporting role within the meaning of the CC Act)

Northumberland and Tyne and Wear Strategic Health Authority

CE Electric

Scottish Power

British Telecom

TeleWest

National Transcommunications Limited

Network Rail (GNER, Virgin, Northern Spirit, Arriva)

Health and Safety Executive

Northumbria Water Limited

Nexus

Port of Tyne

Newcastle International Airport

Highways Agency

Cellular Airtime Providers – 02, Orange, T Mobile, Vodafone

Voluntary Sector representative

Military representative, HQ 15 (NE) Brigade and No 2 Region

Meteorological Office representative

Regional Resilience Director Government Office for the North East

### **The Northumbria LRF area**

The Northumbria LRF area is coterminous with the Northumbria Police Force area and comprises the County of Northumberland and the area of Tyne and Wear. It stretches from the border with Scotland around Berwick-upon-Tweed in the north to the City of Sunderland in the south. It also stretches from the North Sea coast in the east to the border with Cumbria in the west and has borders with County Durham in the south west. Northumbria sits within the Government Office for the North East region which contains LRFs at Cleveland and County Durham and Darlington.

Northumbria has an overall population of circa 1,383,000 (Office for National Statistics 2001 Census), clustered mainly in and around the Tyne and Wear conurbations. The main populated area of Northumberland is the south-east corner of the county and in rural parts of Northumberland, market towns are centres of population serving surrounding smaller villages.

Northumbria is served as follows:

- Major roads: A1 (M), A1, A19, A189, A68, A69, A696, A697 and others
- Major rail links: East Coast mainline to and from London and Scotland, Newcastle/Carlisle east-west link
- Newcastle International Airport
- Ports of Tyne, Sunderland and Blyth
- Metro

- Tyne Tunnel

Northumbria boasts the Northumberland National Park and Northumberland has several miles of coastline designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) as are parts of the North Pennines. There is a fine heritage of historic buildings, archaeological sites and monuments, including Hadrian's Wall which is a World Heritage site.

There are several large shopping complexes, the largest being the Metrocentre, Gateshead, and there are large entertainment venues such as The Sage Gateshead and Newcastle Arena. Northumbria boasts two professional football clubs with stadium capacities of up to 52,000 each and several smaller sporting venues, including a premier league rugby union stadium and an international athletics stadium.

Northumbria has a history of coalmining, shipbuilding and heavy engineering. Many of the traditional industries have been replaced by modern industrial developments and service based organisations. Some of the largest employers include Nissan and Northern Rock.

There are currently ten top-tier COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999) sites in Northumbria, eight in Tyne and Wear and two in Northumberland.

## **Contacts**

Lead Assessors who have produced risk assessments for the CRR are identified in Annex 1, of the CRR together with their contact details.