

Buckinghamshire County Council Resilience Team Summary of Activity 2009-10

Overview

The Resilience Team (RT) continued to provide a service to the community of Buckinghamshire through the implementation of the Civil Contingencies Act and other legislation.

In June 2009 the Emergency Planning Unit was renamed the Resilience Team, to better reflect the combined Emergency Management and Business Continuity Management responsibilities.

At the end of April 2009, swine flu broke out in Mexico and swiftly spread to other countries including the UK and was eventually declared a pandemic. There were two waves of the flu – summer 09 and autumn / winter 09-10. Throughout, the RT worked with internal and external partners to minimise the impact on the community.

During the winter of 09-10 there was a period of about 30 days of consistently cold / adverse weather, including two distinct periods of snow. Both these impacted on the community in different ways and the RT again worked with internal and external partners to minimise the impact on the community.

A customer satisfaction survey was sent out at the end of March 2010.

Activities

Planning for the 2012 Olympics is ongoing and the RT is involved in various planning groups. Dorney Lake in South Bucks District will be the designated site for rowing and flat-water canoeing.

In June 2009, the Resilience Team promulgated its community resilience strategy to parish and town councils. This identifies three strands of resilience: individual / family, business and community. Parish and town councils have been recommended to prepare Emergency Plans in line with earlier guidance. Contact information has been shared with the Resilience Team for information and response purposes.

Individual / family and business resilience is to be enhanced in FY 2010 – 11 through the release of a public education document and the provision of Business Continuity Management workshops to local businesses and voluntary organisations. The parishes / towns will be provided with community resilience workshops to help with the preparation of emergency plans.

Emergency Planning

The following plans / procedures were maintained and revised:

- County Emergency Plan.
- The Buckinghamshire Councils' Resilience / Emergency Planning Business Plan.
- Major Accident Hazards Pipeline Plan.
- Flu Pandemic plan.
- Generic Animal Notifiable Disease Plan.
- Buckinghamshire Mass Fatality plan.
- Multi-agency flood plan for the River Thames in Buckinghamshire.
- Multi-agency flood plan for the River Great Ouse in Buckinghamshire.
- Emergency Reception Centre procedures (for Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes).
- Resilience Team Business Continuity Plan.
- Resilience Team Business Plan.
- County Council fuel shortage plan.

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Contact information is reviewed regularly and confidential listings updated to schedule.

The Resilience Team assisted Adults & Family Wellbeing in the revision of their Adult Social Care emergency plan, their flu pandemic plan and their business continuity plan.

The RT continues to facilitate BCM within the County Council assisting and advising all Services. The Policy, Programme and Corporate Business Continuity Plan (BCP) have been revised. An exercise for senior managers and officers (approximately 90 people) was held in June 2009 to test the BCP.

Liaison & Information Sharing

The following standing fora / groups / meetings were attended by members of the Resilience Team:

- Buckinghamshire Resilience Group*.
- Thames Valley Local Resilience Forum Working Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Mass Fatalities Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Risk Assessment Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Evacuation & Shelter Sub Group*.
- Thames Valley LRF Recovery Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Human Aspects Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Warning & Informing Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Flooding Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Animal Infectious Diseases Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Training, Exercising & Organisational Learning Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Category 2 Responders Forum (formerly Utilities Sub Group).
- Thames Valley LRF Technical Communications Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF Olympics Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF CBRNE Sub Group.
- Thames Valley LRF fuel shortage planning Sub Group.
- County & District Resilience / Emergency Planning Officers*.
- Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Voluntary Resilience Committee*.
- South Buckinghamshire District Council Safety Advisory Group.
- Wycombe Wanderers FC Safety Advisory Group*.
- Dorney Lake 2012 Safety Advisory Group*.
- Buckinghamshire NHS Health Emergency Planning Group.
- Wycombe District Council multi-agency flood planning group.
- Aylesbury Vale District Council multi-agency flood planning group.
- South East Regional Chief Emergency Planning Officers.
- Joint Services Co-ordination Group (civil-military liaison with 145 (South) Brigade).
- Hertfordshire Local Authority Emergency Planning Group.
- Oxfordshire Local Resilience Forum.
- Berkshire Resilience Forum.
- Cross-border liaison meetings (between Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire).
- London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG) Venue Operational Planning briefings.

*meetings chaired by Resilience Officer from the RT.

Presentations

The following presentations were made by members of the Resilience Team:

- Wycombe District Council emergency response staff.
- Wotton Underwood Parish Council - the Resilience Team and Community Resilience.

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- Fire Control staff on all watches of Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service - the Resilience Team.
- Greater Aylesbury Local Area Forum (LAF) – swine flu and community resilience.
- Wendover LAF – swine flu and community resilience.
- Chepping Wye Local Community Partnership (LCP) – swine flu and community resilience.
- High Wycombe LCP - swine flu and community resilience.
- Long Crendon LAF - swine flu and community resilience.
- Aylesbury Vale Parish Clerks – community resilience.
- High Wycombe LCP – response to adverse weather.
- Hazelmere LCP – response to adverse weather and community resilience.
- Missenden LAF - response to adverse weather and community resilience.
- NW Chilterns LAF – response to adverse weather and community resilience.
- Greater Aylesbury LAF – response to adverse weather and community resilience.
- Chesham LAF – response to adverse weather and community resilience.
- SBDC parish clerks - Resilience Team and response to adverse weather.
- Long Crendon LAF – response to adverse weather and community resilience.

Training

The following training was provided:

- EP1 – Introduction to the Corporate Emergency Plan.
- Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and EOC Operations Software.
- Bronze Local Authority Liaison Officer.
- Silver Local Authority Liaison Officer.
- Strategic Emergency Management.
- Bespoke EP1 for Adults & Family Wellbeing (with tabletop exercise).
- Induction training on the Corporate Induction Course.

The Resilience Manager was a guest lecturer for the Intermediate Command and Staff Course at the Defence Academy, Shrivenham.

Exercises

- A Business Continuity Exercise was held in June 2009 for senior Council staff.
- Assisted with Bucks Fire and Rescue Service during several command and control exercises.
- 28th September - Ex Peak Practice (NHS flu pandemic exercise).
- 17th November: Resilience Officer attended a fuel pipeline exercise.
- 18th March: Resilience Officer attended an animal health exercise.
- 29th – 30th March: A Resilience Officer attended the Defence Academy on a UK Operations exercise for students.

Operations

Among others, the Resilience Team were involved in responding to the following incidents.

- 3rd April: fire and evacuation of parts of Waddesdon; closure of the A41.
- 25th April: announcement of outbreak of swine flu in Mexico. Rapidly spreads to become a flu pandemic. Impacts on activities throughout the year.
- 10th October: gas leak in Junction retail park, Aylesbury – evacuation for about 5 hours.
- 17 – 23 December: period of snow / adverse weather. Cold continues to end January 2010.
- 6 – 15 January: period of significant snow fall and cold. The team provided internal information and updates and responded to requests for 4x4 voluntary organisation support, in particular from NHS and Social Care and carried out a formal debrief.

**Buckinghamshire County Council Resilience Team
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The Duty Resilience Officer was paged 123 times during the year. These consisted of:

| | | 2008-09 | 2009-10 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| EA FLOOD WATCHES / WARNINGS: | | 85 | 29 |
| WEATHER WARNINGS: | | 59 | 44 |
| INCIDENTS: | Fire: | 5 | 20 |
| | Police: | 3 | 3 |
| | Schools: | 3 | 9 |
| | RIMNET: | 5 | 2 |
| | Other: | 8 | 16 |
| TOTAL: | | 168 | 123 |

Staffing

One Resilience Officer left the Team during this period and two have been recruited to bring the team up to full strength (5.7fte).