

Resilience through Partnership



Joint Resilience Unit Newsletter

Serving the City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

Issue 5 - Spring/Summer 2013



Working together



About the Joint Resilience Unit (JRU)

The JRU is responsible for ensuring, on behalf of Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Local Authorities, that the impact of major emergencies affecting their communities is greatly reduced, so increasing the safety of their residents and visitors.

The JRU team consists of four members of staff and a manager. The team is based at The Quays, Briton Ferry, but also use office space at the Civic Centre, Swansea.

Welcome to our spring/summer edition of **Resilience through Partnership**. This issue will tell you what the JRU has been up to during the past few months.

We always welcome feedback from our readers. If you have any questions or comments please email joint_resilience@npt.gov.uk.

In addition, if you have any suggestions for articles of interest that you would like to see included in future issues, or you have some information you wish to share please email the address above.

Happy Reading!...

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Ystalyfera Landslip

In the early hours of Sunday morning on 23rd December 2012 the JRU Duty Officer was informed of a landslip in the Pantteg area of Ystalyfera, known locally as Mount Hill.



Heavy rain in the area had loosened an earth embankment, sending thousands of tonnes of debris into the highway, completely blocking access to a number of properties.

The Emergency Services, the JRU Duty Officer and other Neath Port Talbot officers assisted the evacuation of 5 properties.

Initially 6 people were evacuated and relocated to a local community centre, unfortunately they were unable to re-enter their properties over the festive period and arrangements were made to re-house the residents.

In January, Neath Port Talbot CBC were given the go ahead by specialist

engineers to start clearing the site of the landslip.

The Council has been concentrating on carrying out essential safety work at the site. This has included removing a cargo container and tree clearance.

Neath Port Talbot Council's Director of Environment, John Flower, said:

"we would like to thank the local community for their patience and understanding whilst we deal with this extremely difficult and complicated issue".

The Council is appealing for the public to stay away from the area of the landslip, the road will remain closed for safety reasons and pedestrian access will be made available when possible.



The Council are aiming to open the road by the end of March 2013.

JRU QR Barcode

A QR (Quick Response) code is a square barcode that makes getting URLs, location coordinates and any text or information into a mobile phone quickly.

With a barcode scanner app installed, you just point your phone's camera at the code to read its contents.

To find a scanner app, search 'QR reader' on your mobile phone applications search facility.

Go on, have a go...point your camera at this barcode and you'll automatically link to the JRU website.



Business Continuity...Is your business prepared?

In the event of an emergency, like flooding or fire, you may lose power and access to your building. Would your business survive?

Community resilience is enhanced when local businesses are able to keep running in emergencies, during a time of disruption or local area crisis. In many cases the initial first responders are the local businesses that are so relied upon within the community.

Unplanned events can have a devastating effect on small businesses. Crisis such as fire, damage to stock, illness of key staff or IT system failure could all make it difficult or even impossible to carry out your normal day-to-day activities.

At worst this could see you losing important customers and even going out of business altogether.

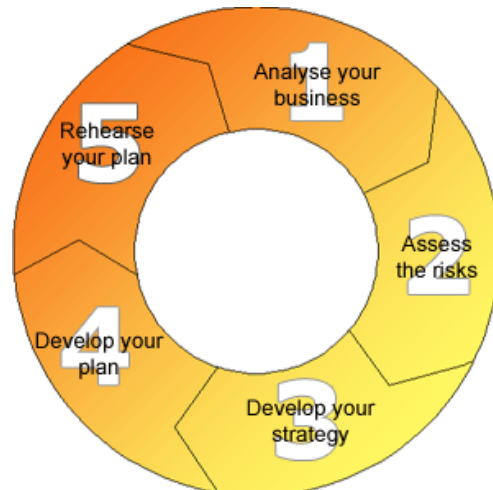
By implementing good planning you can take the steps to minimise the potential impact of a disaster and ideally prevent it happening in the first place.

It is estimated that one in five businesses suffer a major disruption every year. Many never recover and preparing for emergencies is an essential requirement for any business.

Ideally, all businesses should have business continuity plans that document the steps they will take if they are subject to some kind of disruption.

Business Continuity Management (BCM) is essential to protect the needs of a business against the many risks faced today. The goal of BCM is the delivery of 'business as usual' as soon as possible in the event of a disruption.

In general, the following 5 steps are critical for developing effective .



Above all, building BCM into the way you work is building success. Make sure your staff are aware of your plan and, if necessary, trained in its activation. Lastly, make sure you review your arrangement on a regular basis.

No-one can predict the future but there are things you can do to protect your business now

- ◆ Know the risks
- ◆ Make a plan
- ◆ Prepare a kit

For further information visit

www.thebci.org,

www.businesslink.gov.uk

www.bcaw2013.com



BCAW 18th - 22nd March



Business Continuity Awareness Week (BCAW) is an annual global event that is facilitated by the Business Continuity Institute (BCI). It raises awareness of and shows the value of business continuity (BC) as an integrated part of any organisation's strategy.

BCAW provides an opportunity for newcomers to the BC discipline to experience first hand how it can

benefit their own organisation and take away some practical insights and useful information on the value of business continuity.

Equally, BCAW provides BC professionals with a free 'education' platform and a wide range of tools to increase awareness; strengthen understanding and develop ownership for BC within their own organisation.

BCAW is a time to get involved; a time to learn and share good business practice with others.

This year's theme is all about how business continuity helps you address the risks you can see and the ones that you can't.

We hope that you will make the most of the opportunities this week has to offer...use the opportunity to take part in the BC24 online, multi-player, incident simulation game, open for free play from 4-22 March and to sign up for the #BCAW2013 Tweet-a-thon @TheBCEye; 'Tweet-off' at 10:30am on 18 March 2013.

Exercise COMMAND & CONTROL



On the 7th & 8th February 2013 the JRU in collaboration with the British Transport Police, Arriva Trains Wales and Network Rail ran a Command & Control exercise centred on a major railway incident. The exercise was run twice over two days enabling the Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Railway Operators, and other supporting agencies and organisations from the Swansea, Neath and Port Talbot area and our neighbouring authorities to participate.

British Transport Police provided a floor diorama which provided the scene based on a collision between a passenger train and a freight tanker train hauling petroleum product.

The floor model represented a portion of a fictional town which included roads, housing, a school and industrial areas adjacent to a main line railway. Participants also had access to a map of the complete town detailing other principle buildings and services available for use in order to manage the incident they were presented with.

The participants were grouped into Syndicates forming multi-agency groups at both Silver and Bronze levels of a Major Incident response. Network Rail provided a presentation on Safety for the Emergency Services and Arriva Trains Wales; the lead operator in Wales provided a presentation on their role in an incident and the functions of their Train Operator Liaison Officers who attend such incidents. Information on their Customer Care Teams that respond was also given to the Syndicates.

The scenario for the exercise started with the initial notification of an incident occurring and the actions each of the Emergency Services Controls would take. Syndicate

discussions took place and were followed by short debrief sessions. This process covered first responder actions and the methods to be used for ensuring their safety responding to a railway incident.

Included in the questions set to the Syndicates were how to identify the contents of the tankers involved and pollution issues that may arise.

Issues such as the Ambulance services arrangements for casualty clearance, Fire Service cordons and Accident investigation were all covered during the morning session of the exercise.

The afternoon session was given over to the Syndicates to decide on where they would position the required command and control functions to manage this particular incident.



These included Forward Control Points, Cordons, Casualty Clearing points, Survivor Reception Centres and Body Holding Facilities at scene if this was required. Helicopter landing sites were also pinpointed and mapped out on the model.

An explanation of the investigation side of a railway incident was also covered detailing the Agencies responsible for criminal and technical investigations.

Finally a discussion was carried out on how the Media are managed within a Major Incident and the advantages and disadvantages of their presence in and around an incident and its management structure.

*Article provided by Colin Bryan
British Transport Police*

HOME SAFE HOME - Swansea's Tabletop Exercise



In February 2013, the City & County of Swansea's Social Services Directorate held a table top exercise.

It wasn't about contingency planning to get Swansea City's Capital One Cup safely home! It was about rehearsing plans to

evacuate Social Services care homes for older people—and a very successful exercise it was! All Swansea Council care homes were represented, as well as emergency services, the Joint Resilience Unit and other colleagues. The exercise packed in various challenging 'what if' and 'what should

happen next' scenarios, and whilst we were left very reassured about the safety of residents and staff in the event of an evacuation, a few actions were agreed to improve the Social Service Directorate's 'Resilience Plan and Action Files'.

*Article provided by David Evans,
Resilience Coordinator
City & County of Swansea
Social Services Directorate*

Natural Resources Wales - The Environment Agency Wales perspective



From 1 April 2013, Natural Resources Wales will take over the

functions currently carried out by the Country Council for Wales and Forestry Commission Wales, the devolved functions of Environment Agency (EA) Wales and some functions that are currently carried out within the Welsh Government.

This means that the former role of EA Wales as a Category One Responder will transfer to Natural Resources Wales.

Whilst working in partnership with the Joint Resilience Unit, Natural

Resources Wales incident management role is aimed at preventing and minimising any impact upon environment - we protect air, land and water quality through regulation, investigation, enforcement, pollution prevention, environmental monitoring, flood prevention and protection work.

Natural Resources Wales will be working closely with all of the relevant agencies, particularly when it comes to flooding issues and public safety. It will be responsible as part of the Joint Competent Authority at Control of Major Accident and Hazard (COMAH) sites and working in partnership with Fire and Service

in relation to pollution prevention and mitigation of serious incidents.

In most cases you will continue to have contact with the same staff in Wales. Numbers for Floodline 0845 988118 and reporting incidents 0800 807060, will remain in operation.

Natural Resources Wales will notify customers of its new contact centre phone number before April 2013.

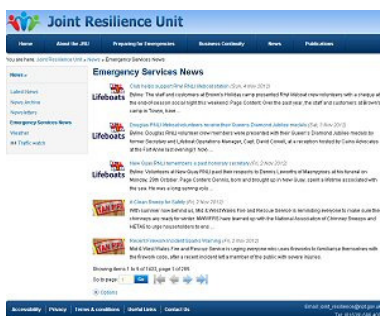
The Natural Resources Wales web address www.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk will be operation from 1 April 2013.

Article provided by Jonathan Jones
Environment Agency Wales

JRU Website Update

We have recently added two new pages to our public facing website

What's new...



Emergency Services News

This section displays the latest

stories and events from the Emergency Services. Articles are available from South Wales Police, Welsh Ambulance Service, Mid & West Wales Fire Services and RNLI Wales & West. There is also a search facility which allows you to view latest news feeds from one or multiple emergency services.

M4 Traffic Watch

This section shows real-time images from traffic cameras at Junctions on the M4.



This accurate live traffic information enables you to see exactly where the traffic delays are before you set off on your journey.

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