

# Resilience through Partnership



## Joint Resilience Unit Newsletter

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

Issue 7 - Autumn/Winter 2014



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 three members of staff and a manager. The team is based at The Quays, Briton Ferry, but also use office space at the Civic

Welcome to our Autumn/Winter edition of **Resilience through Partnership**. This issue is packed with articles from the JRU, City & County of Swansea and its partner agencies. The JRU would like to a big thank you to those who contributed articles.

We always welcome feedback from our readers. If you have any questions or comments please email [joint\\_resilience@npt.gov.uk](mailto: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.

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## Get ready for winter

Building on the success of the last two year's winter preparedness initiative, the Met Office are again working with key government departments, agencies and voluntary sector partners to join up messages to encourage individuals, families and communities to think about what winter preparations they can make to help them stay warm, healthy and safe. The messages will once again be hosted on the Met Office website. The aim of the initiative is to highlight some very practical and straight forward advice to help individuals and communities prepare for a range of winter weathers including; cold, snow, ice, high winds and flooding.



With winter upon us, make sure you're prepared for the change in weather and the temperature drops. For tips on how to stay safe and warm this winter please visit [www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/get-ready-for-winter](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/learning/get-ready-for-winter) The initiative will be launched week commencing 20 October 2015.

## Are you at risk of flooding?

Through the Natural Resources Wales (NRW) website you can find general flood warning information and advice, including whether there are any flood warnings in your area, as well as a range of useful information on preparing for flooding, and what to do during and after a flood.



If your home, or business is at risk of flooding you can register with Floodline Warnings Direct. The free service provides advance notice of flooding within your area, giving you time to prepare. The service can issue warnings by phone, text, email or fax...whichever you prefer.

To register follow the instructions on [www.naturalresourceswales.co.uk](http://www.naturalresourceswales.co.uk) or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188 or typetalk 0345 602 6340.

You can also receive alerts during flooding by following the NRW twitter account @NatResWales

Article provided by NRW



## Norovirus and other stomach bugs



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol  
Abertawe Bro Morgannwg  
University Health Board

### Urgent message.

Help stop the spread of Norovirus  
- a message from your Health Board.

Norovirus isn't nice and spreads easily. It causes sickness and diarrhoea and is very distressing, especially for the elderly, young children and those who are already ill.

**Remember** to wash your hands thoroughly after going to the toilet and before eating.



If you have sickness and / or diarrhoea it is **very important** you stay at home. Don't go back to work / school and avoid contact / socialising with others, such as friends and extended family, for **at least 48 hours** after the last time you are sick / have diarrhoea.

## Waste abandonment

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are asking RICS members to be aware of criminal gangs offering money to store waste on their property. The criminals fill the property with waste and then abandon it, leaving it for the landowner to deal with. The landowner can be left with huge costs to have the waste lawfully removed.



At present criminal gangs may be seeking to store tyres and bales of waste (which are similar in appearance to silage bales). Waste tyres and baled waste can pose a significant fire threat and can burn for months releasing dangerous gases which can harm human health and the environment.

If you are approached to store waste for someone else, or suspect that this is occurring in your area contact the NRW immediately on 0800 80 70 60.

*Article provided by NRW*

## Exercise 'CYGNUS'

As a result of the ongoing high risk of an influenza pandemic, a multi-agency exercise 'CYGNUS' was held in October to assess preparedness at both a national and local level.

The exercise provided an opportunity to test our response in Wales to a pandemic flu scenario and to test the communications required between local responders, Strategic Coordination Centres and the Emergency Coordination Centre (Wales). It also provided Local Resilience Forums an opportunity to fully test response arrangements to a flu pandemic.

Exercise Cygnus focused on the mid-phase of an influenza pandemic, allowing health sector impacts to be considered alongside wider consequences and emerging issues ahead of the peak of the pandemic.

## Exercise 'BRIDGE'

Exercise Bridge is a multi agency exercise in response to a chemical tanker incident on the M4.

Agencies from Dyfed Powys LRF and South Wales LRF and emergency services are participating.

The event will be held at various locations on Wednesday 19th November 2014.

The JRU will be working with Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Social Services in the activation and management of a joint rest centre.

Check out our twitter feed for live tweets and pictures during the exercise.

## Free electric blanket checks

Trading standards in Swansea is urging electric blanket owners to get them checked for safety purposes.

The call follows a previous safety event where almost half of blankets checked failed basic safety standards.

With winter approaching, residents are now being invited to a series of free events that have been organised by Swansea Council and Mid & West Wales Fire Service.

Around 1,000 fires a year are caused by faulty electric blankets in the UK

If tests show the blanket is a risk then owners can either purchase a new one themselves or the Fire Service will provide one for free if the person agrees to a full fire risk safety check of their home.

## Pandemic Flu Planning

Pandemic flu is similar to seasonal flu but symptoms can be more severe, which most people will have no immunity from and is a potential killer. The very old, very young and those with underlying weak immune systems are particularly at risk.

A flu pandemic could have a number of high impact consequences for example, schools closing, disruption to public transport and increased sickness levels at work.

To ensure that such issues are managed effectively the Joint Resilience Unit has developed its own Pan Flu plan on how the City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot will tackle, deal with and response to a Pan Flu incident.

In October, a Health led multi agency exercise - EXERCISE CYGNUS is being held to test how authorities will work together in dealing with pandemic flu. This will ensure that we are as prepared as we can be.

Call Trading Standards on 01792 635600 for more details or to book your appointment. Only limited numbers of blankets can be tested and this will be done on a first come-first served basis. People can also drop by the venues on the day but an immediate appointment can't be guaranteed.

The events are:

Monday 27th October, 9.30am to 12.30pm, Sketty Fire station, Sketty Lane, Swansea, SA2 8QF

Tuesday 9th Dec - 9.30am to 12.30pm at Morryston Fire Station, Community Room, Sway Road, Morryston, SA6 6JA.

**Article provided by Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service**

## Flu Vaccination 2014 / 15



**Who should have one, why, when and where you can get your vaccination.**

Do you qualify for NHS flu vaccination?

- ◆ Over 65
- ◆ Frontline health and social care workers
- ◆ Receive a carer's allowance
- ◆ Pregnant
- ◆ Certain medical conditions

The best time to have a flu vaccine is in the autumn, from September to early November, before any flu outbreaks occur.

Do not wait until a flu outbreak occurs – contact your GP or practice nurse now to arrange your flu jab.

For more information visit [www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk) or phone NHS Direct Wales on 0845 46 47.

Articles provided by ABMU Health Board



## Recent Incidents

During recent months we have responded to the following incidents:

- ◆ Derelict building fire, Port Talbot & Garngoch Hospital
- ◆ M4 tanker leak
- ◆ Flat fire, Penlan
- ◆ Burst water mains, Morriston
- ◆ Landslip, Caswell Bay
- ◆ Chemical incident spill, Derwyn Plant Ltd
- ◆ Preparing for flooding at Crofty, Swansea

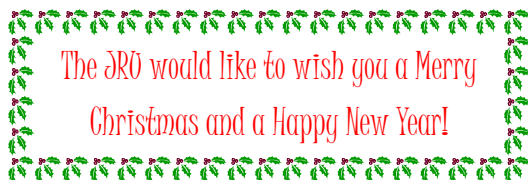
## Don't forget to follow us on Twitter



A way of finding out what is going on in the Joint Resilience Unit and your area is to look our @Jointresilience Twitter account...

The team tweets on a regular basis about work that we are undertaking, meetings we attend, events such as training and exercising and resilience projects. We also share information from our partner agencies, for example, the fire service, ambulance service and police.

We also use Twitter to keep you updated during emergency incidents.



### Contact Us:

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## What's next?...

Here's a taster of some of things we are working on over the next few months.

- ◆ Planning & facilitating exercises for 2 top tier COMAH sites - TATA and Calor Gas
- ◆ Rest Centre Training
- ◆ Reviewing business continuity plans for Council critical services and schools in preparation for the winter months
- ◆ Business continuity drop in sessions
- ◆ Providing business continuity advice to local businesses
- ◆ Providing an on-call duty officer service to respond to local emergency incidents

## Recent Tweets...

The screenshot shows two tweets. The first is from 'Met Office warnings' (@metofficeUK) posted 22m ago, containing a yellow warning of rain for Wales and a link to a bit.ly URL. The second is from 'FloodAlerts' (@FloodAlerts) posted 1h ago, mentioning heavy rain over Wales and providing a link to a gaugemap.co.uk website. Both tweets include a retweet icon and the text 'Retweeted by JRU'. A weather map of Wales is visible at the bottom of the second tweet.