

EMERGENCY PLANNING NEWS

Ship Fire Leith Docks

At 0430 hours on Sunday 15th June 2008 smoke was seen billowing from the Viking Vulcan which was berthed in Leith Docks.

Fire Tenders, Ambulance, Police and Harbour Authority attended and were on-scene by approximately 0500. The seat of the fire was believed to be inside the forward accommodation. Great care had to be taken extinguishing the fire, as too much water inside the hull would create a free surface effect, which could result in a loss of stability and possible capsizing.

The fire-fighters who went on board experienced extreme heat causing boots and helmets to melt. A port fire-fighting tug was mobilised to assist with boundary cooling. To complicate matters the Viking Vulcan was berthed alongside another vessel – the BUE

Lewis. In order to prevent the fire spreading to the inboard ship further tugs were mobilised to pull the BUE Lewis away from the danger area later in the day.

The Fire Service ceased



A port fire-fighting tug attempts to cool down the vessel.

applying water and evacuated personnel when the Viking Vulcan listed to port. Foam was injected twice but this failed to extinguish the fire. By mid afternoon the decision was made to allow the fire to burn itself out under the supervision of the LBFRS.

The fire was eventually out during the morning of Wednesday 18th June. A boom was put across the Edinburgh dock as a precaution in case of pollution, although none resulted.

The vessel had been laid-up in port for nine years and was unmanned. When in service it had been a North Sea oil platform stand-by vessel. Recently an Egyptian Company who intended putting it back into service bought it. There was no dangerous cargo on board but there were numerous drums of lubricating oil and a quantity of diesel fuel.

There were no casualties. The fire investigation team could not find the cause of the fire owing to the contents of the vessel being completely incinerated.

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Coastguard Dispute

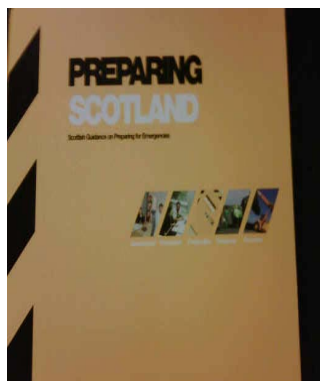
On 23 August 2008 Coastguard staff around the UK began a 48-hour walkout in a long-running dispute over pay. The rescue co-ordinators, part of the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), are angry they are paid less than other emergency services.

The strike followed five days of industrial action earlier this year at the UK's rescue co-ordination centers.

Search and Rescue services were unaffected by the strike.

Lothian and Borders Emergency Planning Strategic Co-ordinating Group

Responding to emergencies in Scotland



Guidance on responding to emergencies has been produced as part of Preparing Scotland.

Guidance on responding to emergencies has been produced as part of *Preparing Scotland*.

It has been produced by a working group of practitioners representing ACPOS, CFOA, the Scottish Ambulance Service and the Maritime and Coastguard agency

The document describes the emergency services activity at a site of single

point emergency and reflects their agreed "principles of command and control".

It also outlines the links between the emergency services and the wider response.

The management arrangements described are flexible and adaptable to a wide range of emergencies.

The guidance explores the establishment of a

multi-agency Tactical Co-ordinating Group that brings together the activities of other complementary multi-agency groups

The key elements of the guidance will be incorporated into the Lothian and Borders Generic Response Plan

Road bridges, river fords and sections of roadway had either been swept away or were badly damaged.

Heavy rainfall during the weekend of 5/7 September 2008 resulted in flooding of the Bowmont Valley in the Scottish Borders.

By early afternoon on Saturday the 6th September the level of the river was causing concern and householders in some of the riverside properties were requesting sandbags.

Calls were also received from a party of hill walkers who were in danger of being cut off by the rising water and a Royal Navy helicopter was called in to transport them to safety

By darkness it was clear that access to the valley was becoming increasingly difficult and the road was closed and resources stood down until first light.

On Sunday 7th September efforts were made to assess the situation and it

was clear that, in some places the river had left its normal course and had adopted a new route in some cases many metres away.

Road bridges, river fords and sections of roadway had either been swept away or were badly damaged.

It was also clear that the area was without mains electricity and in many cases telephones.

Fortunately most farmhouses and cottages in the area are built on the higher ground and although cut-off were unaffected by the flood water. Despite the conditions some work was started to restore communications and power supplies

Monday 8th saw the multi-agency recovery operation swing into full action and

resources were deployed by all the agencies to restore services.

A key part of the operation was the establishment of a Support Line by Scottish Borders Council. The work was initially hampered by the damage to the telephone system but gathered pace as faults were rectified. The Support Line remains in place some two weeks after the event.

The loss of road bridges presented a particular problem and in one case it was necessary to construct a temporary footbridge to free a number of households from isolation. This work was completed by Thursday 11th September.

The full restoration of some bridges is expected to take at least 12 months. Costs are expected to be over **£1.5 million.**



A Royal Navy Helicopter was called in to transport the walkers to safety.

Lothian and Borders Emergency Planning Strategic Co-ordinating Group

Flooding West Lothian

During the late evening of Tuesday and early morning of Wednesday 20th August, Emergency Services and West Lothian Council dealt with several reports of localised flooding in West Lothian.

The most intense flooding was in Broxburn, where the Brox Burn burst its banks in West Burnside, and further localised flooding occurred in Burnvale. No persons were injured

during the incident. Rest centre facilities were set up at West Calder Community Centre, to which one family self evacuated.

Many roads were closed due to flooding and two road bridges were damaged.

The flooding was followed by a major clean up operation and the Police had to move a number of cars which were damaged.

Contractor were called in to assist and Scottish Water deal with a burst water main in West Burnside Road.

Owners who were evacuated were able to return to their homes the following day.

A flood prevention scheme costing £5.6m for the Brox Burn is being implemented over the next 2 years. The need for further works in light of the August flooding is being assessed at present.



The flooding was followed by a major clean up operation

Resilient City Exercise – June 2008

Exercise Edinburgh Resilient City was a half-day, inject-based business continuity exercise held on Friday 27 June 2008. It was developed in response to feedback from members of the Edinburgh Resilience Forum, a Council-led bi-annual forum for Edinburgh's top businesses and Category 1 Responders to discuss busi-

ness continuity / emergency planning issues.

The aim of the Exercise was to explore continuity and communications issues between a wide-range of organisations and agencies representing Edinburgh's key sectors. This exercise was also a demonstration of a joint commitment to an ongoing process to

make the City of Edinburgh a leading UK resilient city.

A multi-agency debrief was held and a debrief report circulated by the Exercise facilitators. The main issues are being taken forward through two working groups.

This exercise was a demonstration of a an ongoing process to make the City of Edinburgh a leading UK resilient city.

CBRN Plan Completed

As part of the Government response to an attack involving Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear material Edinburgh now has a CBRN Plan The purpose of the plan is

“to ensure that Scotland is capable of responding quickly and effectively to

deal with and recover from the consequences of Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear incidents.”

The plan has been prepared by a multi-agency working group Chaired by Lothian and Borders Police and its objectives are to ensure that there

is an appropriate and effective response to any Terrorist attack involving CBRN material.

Training is now taking place to ensure that emergency services staff are fully prepared and an exercise will take place in 2009.



Ambulance Specialist Operation Vehicle

Lothian and Borders Emergency Planning Strategic Co-ordinating Group

STRATEGIC TRAINING

The Scottish Government training programme for Strategic Managers is now being rolled out across Scotland.

This is aimed at Category 1 Responder Chief Officers and those that may deputise for them during an emergency.

The Lothian and Borders training will take place on 12 and 13 November 2008.

The Lothian and Borders Emergency Planning Strategic Co-ordinating Group aims to ensure effective management of multi-agency response to emergencies which have a significant impact in the Lothian and Borders Area. It will do this by promoting sound partnership working, developing a unified emergency management framework and ensuring that all partners are prepared for a joint response to any emergency

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British Red Cross Support Vehicle

The British Red Cross Fire and Emergency Service responds to an otherwise unmet need by providing practical and emotional support to individuals who have been affected by a domestic fire or a similar fire service incident e.g. domestic flooding.

British Red Cross, working in partnership with Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service and the local authorities is able to offer short-term support to those affected by domestic fires and road traffic collisions. Skilled volunteers provide the service.

Features of the service include:

- Immediate temporary shelter in a specialist vehicle.
- Assistance in seeking temporary accommodation.
- Personal emotional



- support
- Support with the care of children and pets.
- Use of shower and toilet facilities.
- Provision of clothing / toiletries / light refreshments.
- Use of telephone and camera to assist with insurance claims

The service is delivered by Red Cross volunteers in the first few hours following the fire, or other incident, and supplements the activities of the statutory services. The volunteers are trained in such aspects as practical and emotional support, trauma management, moving and handling and first aid.

The service operates in Lothian and Borders each weekday from 1800hrs to 0800hrs, and at weekends from 1800hrs on Friday until 0800hrs on Monday.

The service has been in operation in Lothian and Borders, operating under an MOU with LBFRS since October 2007. Since then, we have attended incidents 33 times, which on average equates to once every 10 days. The volunteer crews have spent in excess of 90 hours responding (which equates to 180 person hours), and have assisted almost 200 people during that time.

In the main these incidents have been within the City of Edinburgh, the majority of which have been attended to within 60 minutes of the request to attend being received. Red Cross volunteers have provided cover for the entire rota during the period of service provision, including public holidays, notably both at Christmas and New Year.

David Miller
Operations Director
British Red Cross