



Joint Resilience Unit

Room 2.7.4
Civic Centre
Oystermouth Road
Swansea, SA3 1SN
Phone: 01792 637420
E-mail:
joint_resilience@npt.gov.uk
resilience@swansea.gov.uk

Rest Centre Volunteers - Do you have what it takes?...

Getting involved in helping individuals and supporting communities affected by disaster can be a highly rewarding experience.

Local Authorities, in partnership with the emergency services, have a responsibility to prepare and respond to emergencies within the area.

Neath Port Talbot CBC are currently looking for volunteers from Social Services, Health and Housing to help run rest centres should the need arise. Volunteers will receive full

training and an hourly expenses payment when called to attend an incident outside of normal office hours.

City and County of Swansea have sufficient volunteers at present but if this situation changes we will let you know.

If you think you could help to provide support, basic refreshments, information and advice to evacuees in Neath Port Talbot please fill in your details below and return to:

**Mr. Leighton Jones,
Policy & Special Projects
Team**

**Social Services, Health & Housing Directorate,
Civic Centre,
Port Talbot, SA13 1PJ**

By making an initial enquiry, you will not be committing yourself to anything. It will just be a chance to receive further information so that you can decide whether being a rest centre volunteer is for you.



Name:	
Contact Telephone Number:	
Address:	
E-mail address (if applicable):	
Place of Work:	

WHAT IS A REST CENTRE?...

A building designated, by the local authority, for the temporary accommodation of those evacuated from premises as a result of an incident nearby which may effect their safety. People usually stay at a rest centre until they are allowed to return to the evacuated area or are found alternative accommodation by the Local Authority

YOUR ROLE AT A REST CENTRE...

Your role as a volunteer will be to assist the Rest Centre Manager in the overall management of a centre, assess urgent needs, share information and provide support to evacuees in conjunction with the Police, WRVS, BRC, St John's Ambulance, and other local authority services.

**"GOOD FORTUNE IS
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN
OPPORTUNITY MEETS
WITH PLANNING"**

Resilience Matters

For the Authorities of Neath Port Talbot & Swansea



Working Together



Joint Resilience Newsletter

Spring / Summer 2010

Issue 1

Message from the Resilience Manager

The Joint Resilience Unit (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 6 members of staff. The team is based in the Civic Centre, Swansea, but also have a shared space available at The Quays, Briton Ferry.



Welcome to the first edition of **Resilience Matters**, the bi-annual newsletter covering a wide range of activities and news updates relating to Emergency Planning and

Business Continuity. Hopefully you will find the content interesting and it is our intention to use this newsletter to promote not only our internal service

areas involved directly in responding to an incident but the work the local authority undertakes in partnership with key stakeholders such as the Police, Fire Service, Ambulance Service, Environment Agency and Health.

We would welcome your comments on the format and content and any suggestion on future topics or articles you would like to see in our newsletter (contact details on pages 2 & 4).

For further information on who we are and what we do please visit our website

www.swansea.gov.uk/resilience
www.npt.gov.uk/jointresilience

Inside this issue:

- Joint Resilience Website "REVAMP" 2
- Afan Lido Fire 2
- CCA 2004 - A Summary 2
- Ex ROMEO - COMAH Exercise 3
- Directorate Resilience Coordinators 3
- Business Continuity Awareness Week 3
- Rest Centre Volunteers - Neath Port Talbot 4

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES



ACT 2004

Civil Contingencies Act 2004 - A Summary

The Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004 was introduced following the fuel crisis, severe flooding in the autumn and winter of 2000, and the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in 2001.

The CCA provides a framework for Civil Protection in the UK. It places a number of duties relating to preparing for and responding to emergencies on both Local Authorities and other responding and supporting agencies. The legislation places a number of new and

enhanced obligations on all Category 1 and 2 responders. As defined in the Act, Category 1 responders are local authorities, emergency services, the Health Service and the Environment Agency. Category 2 responders include utilities (gas, water etc), transport bodies (network rail, airports, highways agency etc) and the Health & Safety Executive.

Local Authorities, as a Category 1 responder, have a duty to assess the risk of emergencies to inform contingency plans, put

in place emergency and business continuity plans, business continuity promotion to businesses and voluntary organisation, provide information on civil protection matters available to the public, share information and cooperate with other local responders and to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency.

For further information on the CCA please visit <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ukresilience/preparedness/ccact.aspx>

Joint Resilience Unit

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

City & County of Swansea

Joint Resilience Unit

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

City & County of Swansea

Joint Resilience Website “REVAMP”



consists of 2 sites, the JRU website and a Resilience Shared Area Portal.

The JRU site tells you who we are, what we do and provides information on the regulations and guidance we adhere to. The Shared Area Portal is a ‘permission only’ based site that provides users with specific plans and contact details required when responding to an emergency.

Please take time to visit our website and review all the work undertaken by the unit.

We hope you find the information on our pages useful. If you cannot find what you are looking for or would like to comment on these pages please contact us.

To provide further information to staff and members of the public, we have designed a new, more friendly user website after consultation with service users. The website

Visit our website...

www.swansea.gov.uk/resilience

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Contact us...

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☎ 01792 637423

Afan Lido Fire



On 16 December 2009 a fire broke out at the Afan Lido Leisure Complex, Port Talbot. Responders to the incident included South Wales Police, a number of services from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service. 100 fire fighters

were at the scene which involved crews tackling the blaze through the night.

The JRU Duty Officer was contacted and Social Services, Health & Housing staff were involved in providing temporary shelter for evacuated residents from nearby properties by opening and managing 2 Rest Centres in the area.

A multi agency debrief was held to discuss procedures, identify best practice and highlight procedures that need further development.

The response to the incident was successful, there were no injuries or fatalities, evacuated members of the public were offered a place of shelter and, despite a number of initial problems, communications worked well.

The debrief highlighted areas for improvement to the emergency response and partnership working. Work is underway to integrate these in our emergency response planning.

NPT & CCS Resilience Partnership

The Neath Port Talbot & City & County of Swansea Resilience Partnership was established in Spring 2006 by the JRU and comprises of Category 1 and 2 responders from our local area. It is chaired by Paul Thomas, our Resilience Manager and was established to look at risks in our local authority areas with our partner agencies, ie, Emergency Services, EA, Coastguard, Utilities, etc.

The Risk Working Group that

was established as a result of the Resilience Partnership has compiled a NPT & CCoS Risk Register to inform a programme of multi-agency civil contingencies work. One of the high risks recognised in this area is flooding, so therefore a Flood Working Group was created in Dec 2008 to address local flooding issues and multi-agency flood plans.

Future work carried out by the Partnership will include local multi-agency exercises and development of multi-agency specific plans for recognised local risks.

Exercise ROMEO - COMAH Exercise

On 9th March, 2010, the JRU in collaboration with BOC, Margam, arranged and attended a live on-site exercise to conform to duties put upon the Local Authority under the Control of Major Hazard (COMAH) Regulations 1999.

Mid & West Wales Fire Service and South Wales Police attended the BOC site to deal with a fire & electrical explosion and a sudden release of perlite.



BOC and the Emergency Services worked closely together to deal with the emergency scenario by setting up a command and control structure to communicate closely in the multi-agency response.



The live exercise was followed by a multi-agency tabletop exercise facilitated by the JRU on 29th March, 2010.

Participants and observers were representatives of BOC,

Emergency Services, Neath Port Talbot CBC, Environment Agency, Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board, Public Health Wales, other COMAH operators and the JRU.

The day was a very good example of partnership working at a local level to protect the community from risks that have been identified in order to make our Local Authority and community more resilient.



Did you know your Directorate has a Resilience Coordinator?

Resilience Coordinators are responsible for assisting in the delivery of various responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act for their particular service area with support from the JRU.

To ensure there are clear lines of communication and team working, a Resilience Coordinator

Group has been set up consisting of representatives (Resilience Coordinators) from each directorate within both authorities - one for Neath Port Talbot and one for Swansea.

These groups meet individually on a quarterly basis to discuss resilience topics and the progress made within their



directorates. To ensure both authorities work together, they meet once a year to share information and to discuss the way forward.

Business Continuity Awareness Week 2010

Business Continuity Awareness Week 2010 was held between 22nd and 26th March. During this week businesses and voluntary organisations were reminded of the importance of having Business Continuity arrangements in place. Research shows one in five organisations suffer major disruption every

year because of incidents such as fires, flooding, power failure and even terrorism, with many of these businesses never re-opening.

To mark Business Continuity Awareness Week, the JRU launched a new promotional leaflet and a ten minute self-assessment tool to assist businesses with their

continuity arrangements. The new promotional leaflet and 10-minute self-assessment tool can be accessed at the JRU Website and following the ‘Business Continuity’ link. Alternatively, you can contact the JRU for further information on Business Continuity Planning (contact details on pages 2 & 4).

For further information on COMAH Regulation please visit our website - Website address on pages 2 and 4.

If you would like to find out who your Directorate Resilience Coordinator is please contact us—Contact details are on pages 2 and 4.