



Role of Elected Members in an Emergency

25 April 2018



Session Content

- **Emergency planning statutory requirements**
- **Local Resilience Forum (LRF)**
- **Multi-agency emergency response**
- **GCC's emergency planning arrangements**
- **The role of Elected Members before, during and after an emergency**
- **Scenario discussion**



What is an Emergency?

Definition

“ an event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the United Kingdom: the environment of a place in the United Kingdom; or the severity of the United Kingdom or of a place in the United Kingdom”



Gloucestershire Emergencies

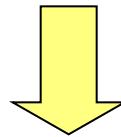
Can you name any emergencies that have occurred in Gloucestershire in recent years?



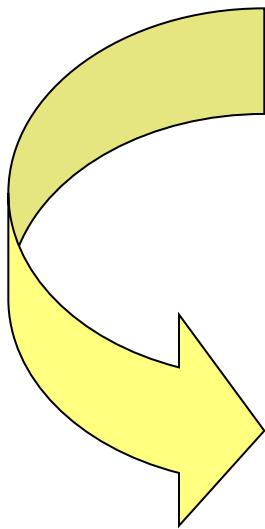
Gloucestershire Emergencies

- Paddington rail crash – 1999
- CSG - 2000
- Flooding- 2000, 2007, 2012
- Foot and Mouth disease- 2001
- Chipping Campden school bus crash – 2003
- Counter terrorism evacuation - 2003
- Andoversford fire and chemical leak - 2006
- Pandemic Flu - 2009
- Civil unrest – 2011
- Long Marston Fire - 2013
- Move to Critical
- Water Outage
- Severe weather ie snow

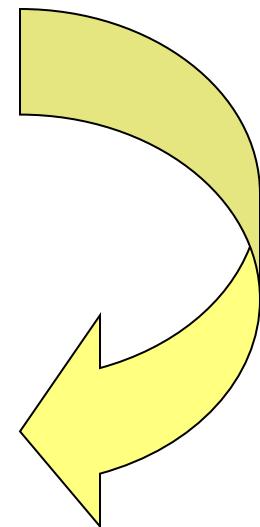
Civil Contingencies Act 2004



Statutory Framework for Emergency Management at Local Level



**Category 1
Responders**



**Category 2
Responders**

Part Two of the CC Act covers Emergency Powers



Category 1 Responders

‘Core’ Organisations

- **Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance)**
- **Local NHS bodies**
- **Public Health England**
- **Local Authorities**
- **Maritime and Coastguard Agency**
- **Environment Agency**
- **Military**



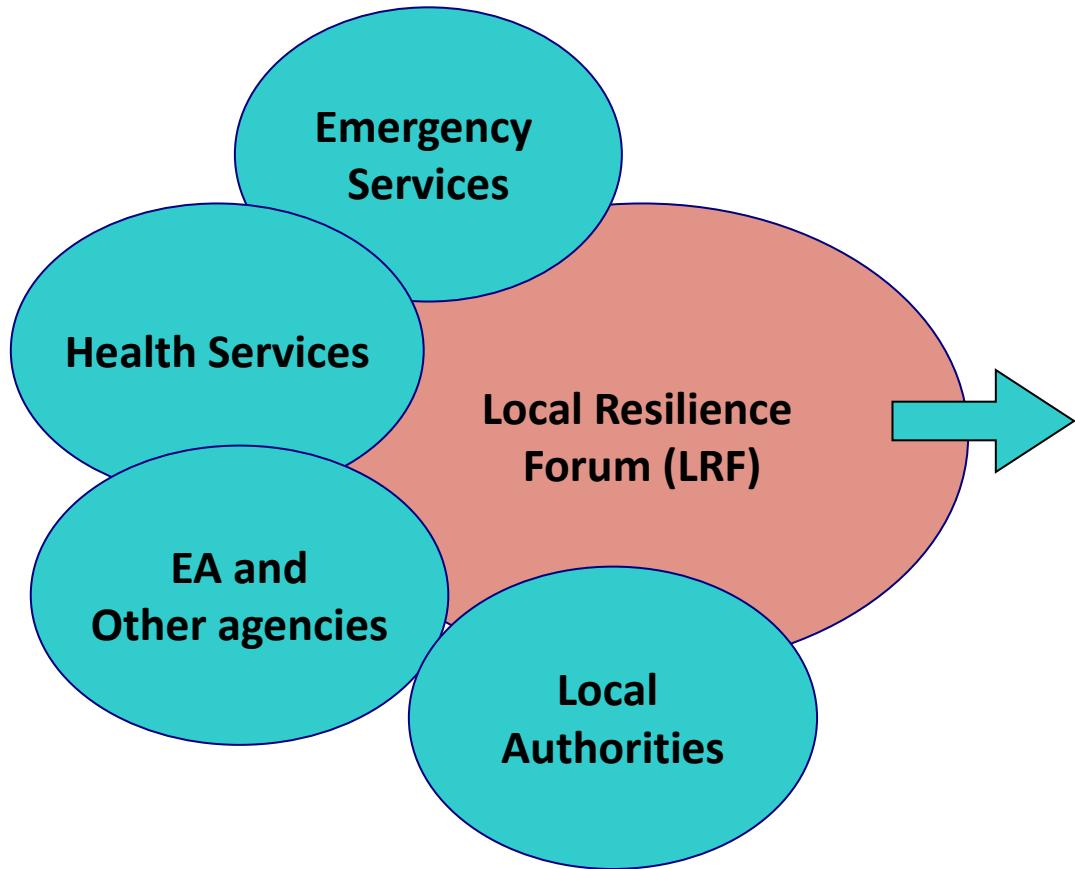
Category 2 Responders

‘Co-operating’ Bodies

- **Utilities** (*water, gas, electricity, telecommunications*)
- **Transport Companies & Infrastructure Providers** (*railway/airport operators, harbour authorities*)
- **Highways Agency**
- **Health and Safety Executive**



Local Resilience Forum (LRF)



LRF GROUPS

- WOT
- Warning and Informing
- Infrastructure
- Search & Rescue
- Human Aspects
- Community Resilience

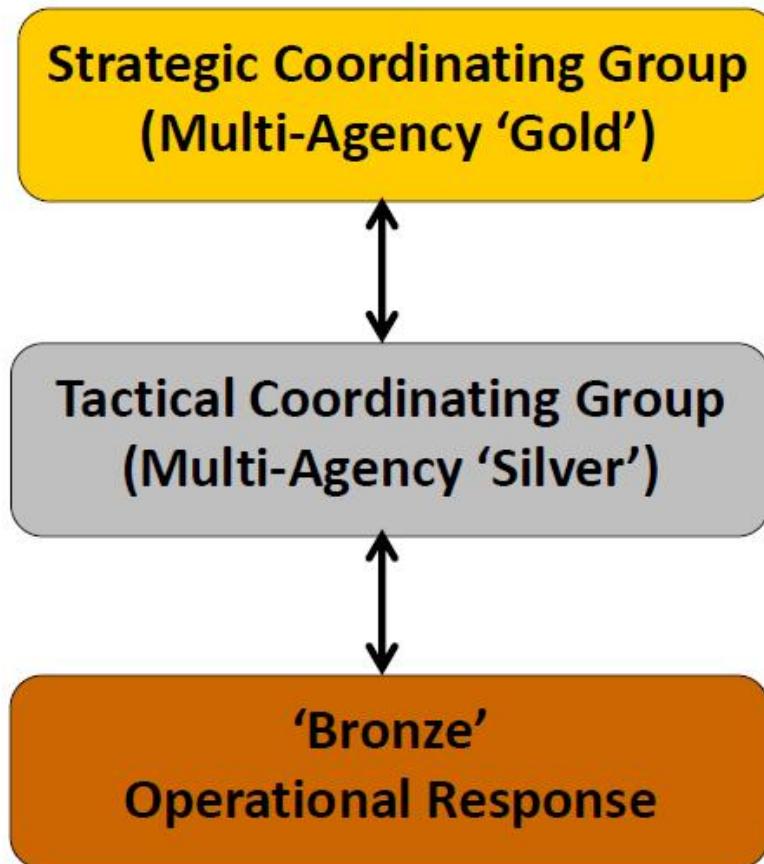


Emergency Plans

- Major Incident Procedures Manual
- Warning and Informing (Communications Plan)
- Multi-agency Flood Plan
- Rest Centre Guide
- Pipelines Plan
- Animal Diseases Plan
- Pandemic Flu Plan
- Mass Fatalities Plan
- Emergency Mortuary Plan
- Fuel Shortage Plan



Multi-Agency Emergency Response Structure





GCC's Role

- **Representation on multi-agency response groups**
- Rest Centres/alternative accommodation
- **Technical/specialist advice**
- Providing information and advice to the public
- **Community liaison and support**
- Assisting with identifying vulnerable people
- **Supporting recovery**



GCC Emergency Response Structure

CPT 24/7 Duty Officer



Co-ordination Team

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Helpline Teams

Helpline Team

Offers of Help Team

Works Team

RVS

Clergy
St John

Welfare Team

Accredited Volunteers



Schools Team

Red Cross
Rotary

Other Local
Voluntary Groups



Role of Elected Members in an Emergency

*What do you think your role is in an
emergency?*



Responding to an Emergency in your Area

YOUR ROLE:

- **Communication link to the local community**
- Eyes and ears – advice officers of local issues
- **Local knowledge**
- Requests for assistance via call centre
- **Community leadership role/reassurance**
- Attend and if appropriate chair local residents' forum



Role of Elected Members after an Emergency

What do you think your role is after an emergency?



Your Role after the Emergency

- **Continue to be the communication link between the council and local community**
- Assist in the Recovery as appropriate
 - e.g. supporting local community groups*
- **Assist in improving Community Resilience based on lessons learned from the emergency**
- Take part in any debriefs, inquiries as required



Role of Elected Member in an Emergency

GENERAL GUIDANCE:

- **Remember your own health and safety**
- Major incidents are usually followed by a period of confusion. Members should be patient whilst officers clarify the situation
- **Members will be notified of an emergency as soon as practical to do so**
- Daily briefings will be provided to Members
- **Members should keep a log of events**
- Contact card



Pitfalls to Avoid

- **Don't put yourself in danger**
- Don't get in the way of the response by the Emergency Services
- **Don't take on tasks you are not comfortable with**
- It is advisable that all press statements are issued through the press office
- **Don't make statements that imply failure or blame of the council or other organisations**
- Make sure you have a break/rest!



Discussion Scenario



Scenario

- Residents in your community have woken up to find either they do not have any water supply or the pressure is very low.
- Some residents have received a text message from Severn Trent Water advising that they are currently working to fix a water supply issue in their area.
- A few residents have contacted Severn Trent Water who have confirmed the water supply issue is due to a burst water main, which they are trying to repair as soon as possible, but this may take a few hours.
- Bottled water supplies in the local shops are quickly selling out.





Discussion Questions

1. How might you become aware of such an issue?
2. Would you contact anyone once you were aware, and if so who?
3. What kind of assistance to the community do you think you could provide during this incident?
4. What actions might you take after the incident?





THANK YOU!

Any questions?