

EXERCISE TRITON II July 14th 2016

This is the overall pre-exercise briefing; specific details for each group will follow; please disseminate to your members as you feel appropriate, and let me know if you have any comments or queries.

Assumed leads for each organisation:

- Lowland Rescue: Paul Webber (please liaise with SuLSAR)
- 4x4 Response: Sarah Berwick
- RAYNET: Peter Hammond (already liaising with various groups)
- Civil Protection Volunteers: Roger Carnell

Norfolk and Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Services will jointly host Exercise Triton II from 13th – 16th July 2016. Exercise Triton II is designed to test the National Resilience High Volume Pump response to 3 large scale simultaneous incidents. Norfolk will test the National HVP response and tactics employed when presented with a large Wildfire. This builds on the learning outcomes from Swinley Forest and more recent wildfires in Norfolk.

Voluntary organisations have been invited to support the main exercise, and to also run search scenarios in parallel. I am on the exercise planning groups on behalf of the Voluntary Sector, and will be on the Directing Staff on the day.

Norfolk & Suffolk 4x4 Response are providing a small number of vehicles supporting the exercise elements that are taking place on the Wednesday and Friday, but the bulk of the live play when all groups will be participating is on Thursday 14th July.

My Aim for the Voluntary Sector exercise (agreed with NFRS and Norfolk Police): to demonstrate the capabilities of voluntary groups to provide co-ordinated resource to support major incidents

Objectives:

- To establish a command and control structure to coordinate voluntary sector resources and manage requests for support from incident commanders
- To demonstrate ability to carry out tasks and requests safely and efficiently
- To gain experience working in a multi-agency environment alongside statutory partners
- To capture any learning, gaps in training, capabilities etc. so that we can be better prepared for potential involvement in real life incidents
- Norfolk Civil Protection Volunteers: to provide tents, tables chairs etc. for welfare of exercise participants; to provide facilities for voluntary control (command vehicle / awning / generator)
- Norfolk & Suffolk 4x4 Response: to provide 4x4 vehicles and drivers to carry out transportation tasks as requested; to provide command and control of 4x4R resources coordinated with overall incident command
- Raynet (various groups from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambs): to provide an adaptive, resilient communications infrastructure to support voluntary (and if necessary statutory) activities during the exercise;
- Lowland Rescue (NorLSAR and SuLSAR): to provide SAR resources to carry out tasks as requested by PolSA; to provide admin and management resources for search tasks, and overall liaison between voluntary command and incident command

Scenario:

A wildfire has been burning to the north of Thetford and has been dealt with by local resources. The first day of the exercise (Wednesday) will see some High Volume Pump (HVP) equipment and hoses laid to represent the result of previous activities, and national Tactical Advisers (TacAds) will be surveying the area to formulate plans for potential escalation. In the evening, HVPs and other resources from around the country will assemble at a Strategic Holding Area (SHA) in the Forestry Commission compound at Santon Downham. Several voluntary agencies have been requested to attend to support the incident on Thursday.

Directing the search activities will be Rob Roe, PoISA for Norfolk Police, and an Inspector will be in Tactical command, liaising with Fire. Paul Chamberlain will be acting as Chair of the Voluntary Coordination Cell (Voluntary Control) representing all groups. Lowland Rescue will set up their usual command and control structures with Operational Control based at the FCP; 4x4 Response controllers will operate from the SHA with local Team Leaders at the FCP. Norfolk Civil Protection Volunteers will be based at the SHA, RAYNET main control will be at the FCP with a station at the SHA, and others as appropriate.

Timeline, Thursday 14th July:

07:00

- NCPV set up tents, tables and chairs at SHA
- Voluntary Control staff arrive at SHA, set up Voluntary Control in NCPV command vehicle.
- NorLSAR control trailer set up at Forward Control Point (FCP) at St Helen's Carpark
- RAYNET set up stations etc. as appropriate

08:00 exercise commences

- Voluntary Control staff liaise with Incident Control for briefing and tasking at SHA.
- RAYNET, Lowland Rescue and 4x4 Response members not otherwise requested to arrive earlier arrive at FCP and await orders

09:00 search briefing

- Operational briefing at FCP

10:00 search commences

- Exact details to be revealed on the day

12:00 - 14:00 lunch

- Coordinated rotation of all participants to have lunch at SHA

15:00 anticipated completion of main exercise tasks;

- NFRS empty hoses and start 'making up'

16:00

- Voluntary Sector debrief at FCP.

18:00 exercise concludes.

Health & Safety

- Standard precautions for operating in forest / woodland should be observed; particularly risk from ticks etc.
- There will be a number of vehicle movements in the SHA, FCP and forest - beware if near manoeuvring vehicles, 15mph speed limit in the forest to be observed.
- No foot search activities to take place on the B1107 Brandon Road or within 3m of the River Little Ouse
- It is individual responsibility to ensure you have enough food and water, and protection from the weather
- Lunch is provided at Santon Downham from 12:00 - 14:00 but will need to be carefully coordinated as all exercise participants will also be there.

Vehicle access to exercise

All exercise participants unless otherwise instructed, should initially rendezvous at the Forward Control Point (FCP) at St Helen's Carpark, grid ref TL 826 874. All access to the FCP should be via A134 Mundford Road and NOT via Santon Downham - arrows on the attached map show the turnings to take. Be aware that the FCP and all roads around the exercise are still open to the public.

The B1107 Brandon Road between Santon Downham and Thetford is part of the exercise area and should be considered out-of-bounds unless specifically instructed by exercise control. Central Santon Downham will be very congested, particularly at the start of the exercise and should similarly be avoided unless specifically instructed. Parking at the SHA will be at a premium - only vehicles specifically instructed to attend should go there - default 'holding' position unless otherwise instructed is at the FCP.

Those expected at the SHA for 08:00:

- NCPV: All volunteers
- Paul Chamberlain (VCC Chair)
- Lowland Rescue: Search Manager + 1
- 4x4 Response: Controller + 1
- Raynet: Operator + 1

All exercise participants are expected to book in and out with their respective control - remember this is simulating a particularly hazardous incident, and being able to account for all participants might be part of the exercise!

Finally, by Friday 8th July please confirm names of those attending so that we can arrange food vouchers.

This exercise will be a fabulous opportunity to show what we can do - there will be some very influential people watching, so make the most of it.

Jim Whiteside.
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