

## SECTION 3 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

This is a brief summary of the roles and responsibilities of the major organisations likely to be involved in the response to a marine emergency in the SOLFIRE Area.

**It is recognised that each emergency will have a unique combination of circumstances and the most effective response will depend on a degree of flexibility.**

### 3.2 THE MARITIME AND COASTGUARD AGENCY

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) is an executive agency of the Department for Transport (DfT). It is the objective of the Agency to minimise loss of life amongst seafarers and coastal users, minimise the risk of pollution of the marine environment from ships and where pollution occurs minimise the impact caused. Actions may include:

#### **HM Coastguard (Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) Solent)**

- a) Obtaining and evaluating all relevant information from appropriate sources;
- b) Initiating distress and urgency broadcasts as necessary.
- c) Alerting and tasking of appropriate SAR resources.
- d) Determining search areas, formulating search plans and tasking resources effectively.
- e) Where appropriate, appointing an On Scene Co-ordinator (OSC) etc, to exercise local co-ordination at the scene of SAR operations.
- f) Co-ordinating the action of all SAR units involved.
- g) Deciding, after consideration of all the available information, that there is no longer any probability of survival of any missing person, and that SAR action can be terminated.

#### **Secretary of State's Representative for Marine Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP)**

- a) Co-ordinate response to at sea salvage and pollution incidents outside of the Harbour Authority Areas.
- b) Monitoring salvage and pollution incidents inside the Harbour Authority Area and giving support where necessary.
- c) Providing support to the relevant Marine Response Centre (MRC), and Shore Response Centres (SRC) where necessary and setting up the Salvage Control Units (SCU).
- d) Exercising the Secretary of States' Powers of Intervention as and when appropriate.

### 3.3 HARBOURS

Statutory Harbour Masters in the SOLFIRE Area have a responsibility for the safety of navigation within their defined areas of jurisdiction. They have conservancy and regulatory functions with specific powers to regulate the control and movement of all vessels. The Harbour Masters have powers to give directions to particular ships on particular occasions. They also have the power to lay down general rules for the movement of shipping prescribed in local Harbour Bye-laws and Notices.

They exercise their functions having regard to the environment.

This plan is supplemented by contingency plans held by Harbour Authorities other than Portsmouth or Southampton, whose jurisdictions lie within the SOLFIRE Area.

(See Annex 5).

### 3.4 FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The primary areas of responsibility in relation to major incidents afloat may be summarised as:

- (i) The saving of life in conjunction with other emergency services.
- (ii) Rescue of trapped casualties
- (iii) Preventing further escalation of the incident by tackling fires, dealing with released chemicals and other hazardous materials.
- (iv) Information gathering and hazard assessment to give advice to the Forward Control Co-ordinator.
- (v) The safety of all personnel involved in the hazard area or inner cordon if this is in operation.
- (vi) Assisting the Police with the recovery of the deceased.
- (vii) Forming part of a Fire Investigation Team.
- (viii) Providing the correct level of staffing to support the Command and Control structure detailed in the SOLFIRE Plan.

When requested Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service will respond to incidents afloat utilising sea and air transport sourced and approved by the MCA.

### 3.5 POLICE SERVICE

The primary areas of Police responsibility in relation to major incidents may be summarised as follows:

- i) The saving of life in conjunction with other emergency services.
- ii) The co-ordination of the emergency services and other subsidiary organisations.

- iii) The protection and preservation of the scene.
- iv) The investigation of the incident in conjunction with other investigative bodies where applicable.
- v) The collation and dissemination of casualty information.
- vi) Identification of victims on behalf of the Coroner, who is the principal investigator when fatalities are involved.
- vii) The co-ordination of the response to the media.
- viii) The restoration of normality at the earliest opportunity.

Whatever the legal and professional responsibilities of other parties who will play a crucial part in the management of a major incident, experience indicates that none of them will be effective unless there is order. Control and co-ordination are necessary preconditions to enable the contribution of all organisations to be effective and to avoid competing and confusing interests.

In the case of a marine emergency the primary responsibilities at sea, for saving life and on-site co-ordination, are the duty of HM Coastguard and other organisations as set out in this plan. However significant marine emergencies will have consequences for services on land for which an integrated response will be required. Where that is necessary the police will coordinate the response through a senior police officer deployed to the relevant MRC.

Should the nature of the incident be such that a Strategic (GOLD) level of co-ordination and planning be considered necessary the police will provide facilities for all necessary agencies at "Strategic Co-ordination Centre" usually at Netley. The decision on activating that facility will be the responsibility of the Police in consultation with the other emergency services and with due consideration to the proximity, cause and impact of the incident.

### **3.6 AMBULANCE SERVICE**

The Ambulance Service has a statutory obligation in the management of National Health Service resources at the scene of a Major Incident. It is principally geared to the immediate medical needs of those directly or indirectly associated with the Incident and their subsequent transportation to receiving and support hospitals (E/L (96) 79 Guidelines and subsequent enactments). The Ambulance Service will alert hospitals as necessary to "Major Incidents Standby/Declared" to enable hospitals plans to be activated.

It is accepted that the overall control and co-ordination at the scene of a Major Incident will normally be undertaken by the Police. In the event of a Marine Emergency, the on-site co-ordination of the emergency services and other organisations will be the duty of HM Coastguard when safety of life is involved and other organisations as outlined in the SOLFIRE Plan. Areas of Ambulance Service responsibility include:

- i) To provide a focal point at the Incident and/or SOLFIRE Emergency Control for ALL NHS/Medical resources.

- ii) The saving of life in conjunction with other emergency services.
- iii) The treatment and care of the injured either directly or in liaison with medical personnel.
- iv) Either directly or in liaison with medical personnel, determine the priority evacuation needs of those injured. (Triage).
- v) Determining and advising the receiving and support hospitals of a Major Incident Alert, to prepare for the receipt of those injured.
- vi) Arranging and ensuring the most appropriate means of transporting those injured to the receiving or support hospitals.
- vii) Ensuring that adequate medical manpower and support equipment resources are made available. The Ambulance Service is responsible for calling out Mobile Medical Teams.
- viii) The provision of communication facilities for the National Health Service resources involved.
- ix) The restoration to normality at the earliest opportunity.

### 3.7 LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local Authorities comprise Unitary, County and District councils. However, a co-ordinated response will be implemented by the affected authorities.

Tasks will be:

- To support the emergency services.
- To respond to any resulting chemical or oil pollution of the coastline.
- To provide welfare support to un-injured survivors.
- To set up friends and relatives reception centres if required.

#### i) **Unitary Councils** – Portsmouth, Southampton and Isle of Wight

The Unitary Authorities all have ports in their areas and will initiate their own Major Civil Emergency Plans; they will be responsible for:

- Co-ordinating the local authority response and resources.
- Sending an Officer to the SOLFIRE MRC (Silver) if this is requested.
- Co-operating with the lead organisation in co-ordinating the SOLFIRE Media co-operation plan. In addition the Cities' PRO will respond to the media on matters for which the Cities are directly responsible.

- Co-ordinating all their own services (eg Social Services, Rest Centres, Transport, Survivor Registration) and voluntary organisations within their areas.
- Activating their own emergency control should the scale of operations require this.

## ii) County Council – Hampshire

Hampshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit will activate the HCC Major Incident Plan And Community Recovery Plan.

- The HCC Emergency Planning Unit will activate the relevant District Authority(s).
- HCC will in conjunction with the relevant District Authority(s) provide an appropriate response and resources for the onshore assistance to the Emergency Services.
- Sending an officer to SOLFIRE MRC (Silver) if this is requested.
- Coordinating the response from the following HCC Departments, Childrens Services, Adult Services and Hampshire Highways, other departments may be activated if required.
- Coordinate the response from Voluntary Agencies.

## iii) District Councils

The maritime district councils in Hampshire are:

- Fareham
- Gosport
- New Forest
- Havant
- Eastleigh

When activated by Hampshire County Council Emergency Planning Unit, these district councils will:

- Activate own emergency control as required.
- Send an officer to the SOLFIRE MRC (Silver) should this be requested
- Co-operate with the lead organisation tasked with co-ordinating the SOLFIRE Media Co-operation Plan. In addition, district councils will respond to the media on those matters for which they have operational responsibility.
- Keep appropriate officers and council members informed about the incident.

**3.8 BT**

BT will, on request to its Emergency Linkline number (0845 755 5999), provide a single point of contact to assist with arranging any or all the following, as appropriate:

- Temporary lines - Telephone & Fax
- Additions or changes to Switches (PBXs)
- Payphone caravans
- Call diversion and gapping
- Temporary loan of Cell phones
- Preference switching
- Telecom Emergency Service Station (TESS)

BT will also use the technology currently available to manage its network to ensure that key areas are not congested with telephone traffic.

BT will consider the provision of a Mobile Public Exchange in order to connect a large number of lines to the Public Network.