

SECTION 5 THE RESCUE, RECEPTION AND DOCUMENTATION OF SURVIVORS AND CASUALTIES

5.1 TERMINOLOGY

To avoid any confusion, the following terminology is to be used when referring to persons involved in a SOLFIRE incident.

Survivors - All surviving persons, whether casualties or not.

Casualties - Those survivors who are injured

Casualty Vessel(s) - The vessel(s) involved in the incident

5.2 IMMEDIATE MEDICAL RESPONSE

Medical response will be initiated by Solent Coastguard by the quickest means, contacting South Central Ambulance Communications Centre, who will advise/inform neighbouring Ambulance Controls, (Isle of Wight, South East Coast and South West) as the needs of the incident dictate, initiating one or more of the following:

- i) An Ambulance Incident Officer will be sent to the MRC (SILVER) for a SOLFIRE Class C or D incident. He/she will liaise closely with the Medical Incident Commander, to ensure effective use of the medical and Ambulance resources required.
- ii) To send an Ambulance Officer and winch trained BASICS1 Doctor to join the Forward Control Team on scene as the Forward Ambulance Commander and Forward Medical Commander to provide a situation report of medical needs and instigate triage.
- iii) An Ambulance Officer will be mobilised with the appropriate number of Ambulances to the rendezvous (RVP) relative to the proposed disembarkation points.
- iv) To advise all potential receiving hospitals of a Major Incident Standby or Major Incident Declared and provide a communication link with them.

Where the incident dictates the need of casualties to be disembarked at locations outside the County boundary, South Central Ambulance Communications Centre will liaise with the appropriate Ambulance Service to organise resources accordingly.

- v) Medical Incident Commander, who will have overall responsibility, in close liaison with the Ambulance Incident Commander, for the medical resources at the scene. He/she should not be a member of any Mobile Medical Team.

If requested by either the Ambulance Incident Commander or the Medical Incident Commander.

- vi) A Mobile Medical and Triage Team or an Ambulance Paramedic Team, dependent upon the nature and location of the incident and the resources available may be deployed to the casualty vessel. The function of the Team will be to triage, initiate primary casualty documentation and treat casualties, The Forward Medical Incident Commander will advise the Medical Incident Commander accordingly.

The level of tasking will be influenced by the scale of the incident, the nature of injuries and the resources available to transfer the Team to the incident.

The Ambulance Communications Centre will liaise with MRC (SILVER) to identify the means of transport of the Officers and Teams to the incident site and points of embarkation.

5.3 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RECEPTION AND DOCUMENTATION OF SURVIVORS AND CASUALTIES ASHORE

- i) Major Incident Procedures are as applicable to incidents at sea as those that occur on the land, although there will be increased difficulties in the deployment of resources on site in a marine environment.
- ii) Shipping movements within the SOLFIRE area of responsibility are capable of producing an incident involving large numbers of survivors and/or casualties from a variety of scenarios.
- iii) As it is impossible to predict the location, time and nature, or severity of any incident, all arrangements must provide total flexibility to respond to actual events as they unfold and develop.
- iv) The SOLFIRE Plan for the reception and documentation of casualties and survivors does reflect that flexibility and allow the Police, Ambulance and Medical Services, together with support facilities from the District, Unitary and County Councils to respond, using their expertise and professional judgement.
- v) The response of the organisations, as listed in the above paragraph, will be in line with the existing contingency plans and arrangements in respect of Major Incidents.
- vi) The point at which survivors and/or casualties will be landed ashore could vary from a simple beach or cliff top to the more sophisticated facilities available at the ports of Southampton or Portsmouth, or elsewhere. In view of the geographical nature of the SOLFIRE area of responsibility, it is not difficult to envisage a scenario where a variety of disembarkation points are used, with varying facilities at each and this would very much depend upon the nature and timing of emergency and the size and description of the vessels and/or aircraft used in the rescue operation.

- vii) Survivors and casualties from any marine accident are best processed, treated and documented at identified locations and/or buildings and it is acknowledged that the ports of Southampton and Portsmouth provide excellent undercover facilities for the reception of survivors and casualties in a secure environment away from the intrusions of the press and sightseers where medical, Ambulance and document team resources can be concentrated.

However, it must be recognised that disembarkation points can occur at one or more sites along the Hampshire and Isle of Wight coastlines requiring more than one Casualty Clearing Station or Survival Reception Centre.

a Casualty Clearing Station/s

One or more areas set up by the Ambulance Service in liaison with MRC (SILVER) to assess, treat and triage casualties and direct their evacuation to the **RECEIVING HOSPITALS**. It is at these hospitals that **POLICE HOSPITAL DOCUMENTATION TEAMS** will be responsible for completing casualties' records and the onward transmission of that information to the Police Casualty Bureau.

b Casualties

Suitable sites for the organised disembarkation of casualties and survivors with reception facilities will be identified by MRC (SILVER) in light of operational considerations.

c Survivor Reception Centre

This is a secure area to which uninjured or lightly injured survivors may be taken for shelter, first-aid, interview and documentation prior to being transferred to a **REST CENTRE**, within a building designated by the Local Authority for the temporary accommodation of survivors.

d Survivors

In accordance with established Major Incident Procedures, the Police will assume initial responsibility for the reception, documentation and dispersal of survivors, assisted by HM Customs, HM Immigration, Port Health Authorities and the Shipping, Port Authorities and Local Authorities.

e Deceased Persons

Deceased persons brought ashore will be dealt with by the Police in accordance with the procedures outlined in the LRF Mass Fatalities Plan, in liaison with Solent Coastguard, the Port Health Authority and HM Coroner.