

FLOODING JULY 2007

1. Friday 20th July the south west experienced severe flooding. Flooding in Wiltshire was minor and not as severe as flooding experienced in previous years.
2. Thirty properties were flooded in Crudwell. Evacuation was offered to the residents but only taken up by a family of four. The Emergency Planning Unit arranged for a 4x4 landrover to collect them and take them out of the flooded area and then for North Wiltshire District Council to arrange alternative accommodation. However, the family made alternative arrangements for transport to friends in Swindon.
3. On Saturday 21st July, 30 people were evacuated from a caravan park in Marston Maisey. The rest centre in Wootton Bassett was opened. Two evacuees attended the rest centre and two requested transport to other accommodation in Swindon. The rest centre was then closed.
4. During the weekend the severe flooding in Gloucestershire had meant that there was a possible requirement for mutual aid from Wiltshire in the following subject areas:
 - Civil Engineers
 - Rest Centre support staff
 - Use of Rest Centres in Wiltshire in the event of an evacuation
 - Equipment
5. The Wiltshire LRF Strategic Co-ordinating Group (Gold) was established at Police Headquarters. The Group remained in contact with Gloucestershire Gold control and the Regional Civil Contingencies Committee throughout the weekend. Updates based on the minutes of the Gold meetings were passed to senior officers and staff at both the County and District Councils throughout the incident.
6. An Evacuation Framework Response Plan was prepared in anticipation of a possible mutual aid request by Gloucestershire.
7. The Plan was written to work in conjunction with the following County and joint Local Resilience Forum documents:
 - Joint Major Incident Procedures Guide
 - Wiltshire County and Districts Major Incident Plan
 - Wiltshire Rest Centre Plan
 - Joint Media Guide
 - Public Warning and Information Protocol
8. Four Rest Centres within the county were identified in accordance with the County Rest Centre Plan. Pre-trained staff teams from the Department of Community Services were put on standby. Voluntary agencies that assist in the staffing of rest centres were also standing by.

9. The EPU has 28 pre-determined locations throughout the county for use as Rest Centres in an incident. Contact details for staff and facilities available are held by the EPU.
- The 4 rest centres chosen were:
- Tidworth Leisure Centre (2,000+)
 - Wootton Bassett Lime Kiln Leisure Centre (700)
 - Warminster Leisure Centre (800)
 - Leigh Delamere Services (1,000)
10. The Olympiad at Chippenham was to be used as a staging area for evacuees from Gloucestershire. After registration they would have been sent to a rest centre as allocated (families with children, elderly etc). ESD Highways formulated transport plans to cover this eventuality.
11. Hotel type accommodation was also identified and a list of logistic support was compiled. Requirements included:
- Food
 - Clothing
 - Bedding
 - Mobile homes
 - Tents
 - Camping equipment
 - Portalooos
 - Sandbags/flood defence equipment
 - Transport to deliver
12. Media support was put in place and a Media Centre was identified. The County Incident Room was opened and ready for use.
13. The Customer Care Unit was on standby and prepared scripts for use out of hours by the Emergency Duty Team for Social Service calls and Care Connect for any highways calls.
14. All arrangements remained in place until stand down took place on Thursday 27th July 2007.
15. De-briefs are scheduled in September at both LRF and Regional level. As with any incident, plans and procedures will be reviewed and updated as appropriate from the lessons learned.