Supporting incident response through robust public health risk assessment

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Principal Environmental Public Health Specialist
Public Health Wales

- Public Health Wales is a Category 1 responder
- providing a 24/7/365 health protection service
- Duties as per the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

- The **Environmental Public Health Team** within PHW will draw upon specialist expertise, particularly chemical and radiation and other hazardous substance-related toxicology via **Public Health England CRCE (Wales)**.
  (Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (Wales))
Environmental Public Health - who are we?

Huw Brunt Lead Consultant in Environmental Public Health Protection

Dr Sarah Jones Consultant in Environmental Public Health Protection

Kristian James Principal Environmental Public Health Specialist

Daniel Rixon Emergency Response Support Officer

Prof David Russell Unit Head PHE CRCE Wales

Andrew Kibble Operations Manager

Ed Huckle Senior Environmental Public Health Scientist

Paul Callow Environmental Public Health Scientist

Paul Harold Environmental Public Health Scientist

Public Health Wales
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- Provides specialist independent public health advice & support
- Assess impact on population health & to inform multi-agency response
- Liaison to gather information on the nature of incident
- Seek preliminary specialist advice, including symptoms of exposure & need for immediate counter-measures e.g. decontamination
- Recommending measures to protect health & mitigate effects
- Interpret & share information with health services and partners
Public Health Wales

• Collating information into a coherent format for different audiences

• Support formal Command and Control structures

• Convening and initially chairing a HAT (Health Advisory Team), STAC (Scientific & Technical Advice Cell) - at request of SCG Chair or an IMT (Incident Management Team)

• Advise on effective communications of public health risks

• Analysing /evaluating responses of other agencies to assess likely impact on public health;

• Facilitating epidemiological follow-up of affected populations if necessary.
PHW Contact information

- PHW Office 02920 40 24 78 (office hours)
  publichealth.environment@wales.nhs.uk

- Incident Guidance and Reporting

- Telephone contacts **out-of-hours (via Ambulance Control)**

  North Wales 0845 600 5235
  Mid & West Wales 01267 222555
  South East Wales 01633 626118
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CCA 2004

Category 1 organisations are at the core of the response to most emergencies (the emergency services, local authorities, NHS bodies). Category 1 responders are subject to the full set of civil protection duties. They will be required to:

• assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning
• put in place emergency plans
• put in place business continuity management arrangements
• put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency
• share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination
• co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency
• provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management (local authorities only)

• Category 2 organisations (the Health and Safety Executive, transport and utility companies) are ‘co-operating bodies’. They are less likely to be involved in the heart of planning work, but will be heavily involved in incidents that affect their own sector. Category 2 responders have a lesser set of duties - co-operating and sharing relevant information with other Category 1 and 2 responders.