Incident Management Team Training event #1

Huw Brunt
Consultant in Environmental Health Protection
Setting the scene...

- Potential for chemical incidents (accidental and deliberate)
- 25 top-tier COMAH sites
- Hundreds of other regulated processes
- Unregulated sites
- Illegal sites
- Number of affected/casualties may range from few to thousands
- 50-60 incidents per year
- Approach to chemical incident management same for other environmental incidents
Public health perspective

- **Environmental incident:**
  
  “any event (usually acute) in which there is, or could be, public exposure(s) to chemical or other hazardous substances which cause, or have the potential to cause adverse health impacts”

- Vary in nature and scale – response levels 1 to 5

- Excluded:
  - environmental incidents with no apparent public health risks
  - occupational exposures with no public health risk
  - incidents involving non-ionising radiation
  - incidents involving drugs and other substances of abuse
  - single case poisonings
Wales flooding: Major rescue continuing near Aberystwyth

Cwm carn High School to remain closed because of asbestos
Wales context

- Notified where there is an incident that meets definition
- May, or may not, be declared as a major incident
- Emergency services will notify LA, NRW, PHW, PHE CRCE
- Notification agreements between PHW, PHE, NRW and PHW/PHE/FRS
- Nature and scale of incident will determine response level
- Multi-agency and collaborative response often required
- Public Health Wales supported by PHE CRCE-Wales (incl. National Poisons Information Service)
- Collaborative working agreements in place
Guidance

Managing public health risks from environmental incidents

Guidance for Wales

March 2014

- Environmental incident definition
- Notification & alerting
- Incident Management Team
- Agency roles & responsibilities
- Risk assessment
- Risk communication
- Escalation beyond IMT
- Evaluation

- Incident-specific guidance: Air/land/water (controlled waters and drinking water) checklists

Intended to complement LRF plans

LRF ‘Major Incident’ plans will always take precedence over this guidance

www.publichealthwales.org/environmental-incident-guidance-wales
**Notification and action**

- **Incident alert**
  - **Incident definition met**
    - **Yes**
      - **Notify**
      - **Risk assessment**
    - **No**
      - **Monitor situation**

- **Convene IMT**
- **CCA 'Major' incident**
  - **Convene 'Silver'**
  - **Convene Strategic Co-ordination Group ('Gold')**
  - **STAC**

- **NOT CCA 'Major' incident**
  - **IMT not required**
  - **IMT required**
    - **Convene IMT**
  - **Sample and monitoring (including Wales AQC)**
Incident Management Team (IMT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core organisations</th>
<th>Likely co-opted partner agencies, including:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Authorities</td>
<td>Emergency Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Health Wales</td>
<td>Health and Safety Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health England (CRCE-Wales)</td>
<td>Food Standards Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Boards</td>
<td>DWI and Water Companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources Wales</td>
<td>Maritime and Coastguard Agency</td>
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</table>

- Review membership (default: PHW to chair initially)
- Co-ordination and consistency
- Review evidence
- Identify at-risk population
- Source-pathway-receptor linkages
- Dynamic risk assessment
- Sampling and monitoring
- Risk mitigation actions
- Communications
- Escalate incident beyond IMT, if necessary
- Evaluate response
Useful resources

- Chemical/fire risk assessment checklists
- Risk assessment checklists for incidents affecting air, land, controlled waters, drinking water
- Asbestos-specific
- Risk communications
- COMAH site-specific resource
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