

12. Wet Weather Conditions June/July 2012

Purpose of report

1. To provide the Policy and Resources Committee with a briefing on the effect of the wet weather conditions on the Service in the period 21 June 2012 to 20 July 2012.
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Recommendation

The Chief Fire Officer recommends that the Policy and Resources Committee notes the content of this report.

Introduction

2. The Service was made aware that there was potential for a number of flooding incidents following Met Office warnings published in the week before 21 June 2012. Although not as severe as the flooding incidents experienced in June 2007, this still led to disruption throughout the two counties, in particular on 28 June and 6 July 2012.
3. In responding to these wet weather conditions the Service invoked established business continuity measures that included:
 - Confirming the availability of Service and Voluntary organisation boat and first responder assets;
 - Providing staffing resilience for both control room and officer numbers throughout both counties;
 - Establishing the Service's command room for more effective co-ordination of wide area flooding events should they occur; and
 - Promulgating community media releases regarding water and flood safety.

Call Summary

4. Fire Control received 1103 calls in the period 21 June 2012 to 20 July 2012. Although this is not significantly more than in similar periods in previous years, there were times of peak activity where multiple calls were fielded by Control staff. Effective call filtering was applied, allowing the more serious incidents to be prioritised and in instances where an attendance by the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) was not warranted, advice was given to the caller.
5. As can be seen in Table 1 below, the largest number of daily calls taken was on Thursday 28 June where 190 calls were taken by Fire Control.

6. The next highest number of daily calls taken was on Friday 6 July where 81 calls were taken by Fire Control. These two periods were the main focus of the incidents caused by the wet weather.

Date	Calls Received by Fire Control	Date	Calls Received by Fire Control
21/06/2012	18	06/07/2012	81
22/06/2012	17	07/07/2012	34
23/06/2012	14	08/07/2012	33
24/06/2012	18	09/07/2012	22
25/06/2012	32	10/07/2012	32
26/06/2012	28	11/07/2012	25
27/06/2012	44	12/07/2012	40
28/06/2012	190	13/07/2012	38
29/06/2012	36	14/07/2012	43
30/06/2012	25	15/07/2012	25
01/07/2012	24	16/07/2012	28
02/07/2012	24	17/07/2012	39
03/07/2012	28	18/07/2012	30
04/07/2012	33	19/07/2012	31
05/07/2012	31	20/07/2012	40

(Table 1 – Number of Calls taken by Fire Control 21/06/2012 to 20/07/12)

An incident summary is attached at Appendix 1.

Rescues and Evacuations

7. There were 17 incidents classed as rescues or evacuation from water in the period 21 June to 20 July 2012. A total of 30 people were rescued from these incidents. The table below shows the type of rescue incidents undertaken in that period.

Type of Rescue	No Of Incidents
Person in or on top of vehicle that is surrounded by moving or rising water greater than (2) foot deep	7
From widespread flooding, e.g. flooded street or field	4
Person assisted from dwelling surrounded by water	3
Other - Person in risk of entering water	1
Person assisted through or across public highway covered by water	1
Person in river, canal, loch (open to the sea), sea or estuary or other waterway (moving water)	1
Grand Total	17

(Table 3 – Rescues at Incidents 21/06/11 to 20/07/11 and 21/06/12 to 20/07/12)

8. A total of 24 people were also rescued in other types of Special Service incident making a total of 54 rescues altogether in the period 21 June to 20 July 2012.
9. Newly trained First Water Responders helped the Service to respond to a variety of flood related incidents, the first phase of Water First Responders from Kidderminster, Upton, Ross and Tenbury together with the second phase of Responders from Malvern, Bromyard, Pershore and Leintwardine, delivered an increased and enhanced level of response to Water rescue and flooding incidents throughout the Service area.

RDS Cost Implications

10. Retained Duty System crews were an essential component in the Service's response to the spate conditions and attended 130 out of the 230 Special Service incidents from 21 June to 20 July 2012. Some of the incidents required more than one appliance in attendance and as a result a total of 181 RDS mobilisations were made to the 130 Special Service incidents.
11. There is an average cost for RDS of £103.38 per pump mobilisation to an incident. Using these figures, it can be calculated that there was a cost of using RDS resources of approximately £18,711.78 in the period 21 June to 20 July 2012.

Conclusion

12. A Fire and Rescue Service is required to review risks in their local area through their IRMP, and make whatever local provisions they deem necessary. In Hereford and Worcester, the FRA has already recognised the risks to local communities from flooding in its IRMP and has made a significant investment in specialist training and equipment. Whilst we are committed to learning from this and previous events and striving to do even better in the future, there is no doubt that our effective response is a direct result of the FRA's decision and local investment.

Financial Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e. paragraph no.
There are financial issues that require consideration	Yes	whole document, in particular paras. 18-22

Legal Considerations

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e paragraph no.
There are legal issues e.g. contractual and procurement, reputational issues that require consideration	Yes	whole document

Additional Considerations

13. The table below sets out any additional issues arising from the proposals contained in this report and identifies the relevant paragraphs in the report where such issues are addressed.

Consideration	Yes/No	Reference in Report i.e paragraph no.
Resources (e.g. Assets, ICT, Human Resources, Training & Development, Sustainability).	No	
Strategic Policy Links (e.g. IRMP, Authority Plan, Equality & Diversity, Partnerships, Environmental Impact).	Yes	whole document
Risk Management / Health & Safety (e.g. risk management and control measures, risk register score).	No	
Consultation with Representative Bodies	No	

Supporting Information

Appendix 1 Incident Summary

Background papers

None

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