

Report to the West Cumbria Site Stakeholder Group Emergency Planning Sub Committee on Emergency Exercises

Introduction

This is a summary of the issues arising from the formal exercises held by the Site Emergency Planning Office for the period since the last meeting. The dates for exercises planned for the period up to the next meeting are listed at the end

Exercises Held

There was one site exercise, as follows:

- 12th May 2009 This was one of the Level 1 exercises which the site are required to hold twice yearly. The main issues were:
- The newly introduced automated telephone warning system, intended to improve communications with the general public, failed to perform as required.
 - There were a number of procedural issues which caused problems in the operation of the Access Control Point and Incident Control Centre.
 - It was recognised that the command and control at all levels was poor. To varying degrees this has been a recurring theme over the past few exercises.
 - That Operating Units are not fully exercising their teams and emergency arrangements.
 - That the scenarios used for Emergency exercises contained unrealistic fault sequences.
 - One unit of the site siren failed to sound.
 - That there were limited casualty handling facilities at the sites Medical Dept.
 - Cumbria Constabulary were unhappy with the way that they were notified about the declaration of a Site Incident and wished that it should be manual rather than automated and that the initial message should contain more information to assist them in alerting other Agencies.

Future Exercises

24th September 2009. This will be a Level 3 exercise and will test the off site emergency plan. The site will fully participate for part of the exercise.

22nd October 2009. This will be a full site demonstration exercise (level 1).