



Flooding

February 2014

Publicity Line

The Pitt Review, released following the 2007 floods, endeavoured to create greater clarity around response to flooding.

Although many aspects have improved considerably, there still remains ambiguity about which agency has responsibility for the co-ordination of flood response.

Flood response plans are currently the responsibility of Local Resilience Fora (LRF). CFOA, whilst supporting the principle of local determination for local incidents, believes that LRF Chairs should be advised that the default expectation would be:

“That the local Fire and Rescue Service acts as the lead agency for the co-ordination of rescue operations during the emergency phase of the response to flooding incidents”

England ✓

Wales ✓

Scotland ✗

Northern Ireland ✓

NFCC will:

- The Pitt Review of the 2007 floods endeavoured to create greater clarity around provision and responsibilities for flood response. Although many aspects of response have improved considerably since then, there still remains a lack of clarity regarding responsibility for the co-ordination of flood response across the country.
- Flood response plans are currently the responsibility of local resilience fora (LRF). It is for these bodies to determine which agency should be the lead, depending on local circumstances.
- NFCC supports the principle of local determination for local incidents.
- Wide area flooding frequently crosses Police Constabulary borders and we have much experience of dealing with incidents spanning up to six Local Resilience Forum (LRF) areas simultaneously. At such times, it is more effective to have a common framework for the management of response than six individual local plans causing agencies to respond in different ways.
- Through agreement with DEFRA - *the lead department for flooding* - the Fire and Rescue Service National Co-ordination Centre (FRSNCC) now acts as the repository for asset registration and mobilisation of emergency responders to inland flooding incidents. NFCC endorses this approach and, in accordance with the National Co-ordination Advisory Framework (NCAF) as a primary mechanism for national oversight, identifies the Fire and Rescue Service as the de facto lead agency for the co-ordination of rescue operations during the emergency phase (boats, pumping, command and associated advisors) of flood response activity.

- The Fire and Rescue Service can also provide significant pumping capabilities under the NCAF arrangements to assist in those areas affected by flooding
- The NCAF provides a mechanism by which rescue deployments can be managed, and information flow can be maintained from local Incident Commanders (receiving subject-specific advice from trained, accredited individuals) through local command structures (Strategic Coordination Groups) through to Government Department Emergency Rooms and ultimately input into COBR arrangements.
- NFCC believes that LRF Chairs should be advised that the default expectation is that the local Fire and Rescue Services will be the lead authority for the co-ordination of the rescue phase of the emergency response to flooding incidents.
- NFCC looks forward to working with DCLG Resilience and Emergencies Directorate and the Civil Contingencies Secretariat of the Cabinet Office to assist with preparation of supporting guidance