

Dumfries and  
Galloway  
Strategic  
Co-ordinating  
Group

# Annual Report



Dumfries & Galloway  
**MAJOR**  
Emergency Scheme





I am very pleased to present the annual report of the Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) for civil contingencies covering the period 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007. The report is intended to keep the public in Dumfries and Galloway up to date with what we are doing in the field of civil contingencies within the framework of the Dumfries and Galloway Major Emergency Scheme.

Protecting the community involves a co-ordinated partnership approach which involves the public, commercial and voluntary organisations. Our Strategic Co-ordinating Group is one of eight such groups in Scotland that have a responsibility for steering emergency planning initiatives and for overseeing the response to an emergency. Each SCG is based on a Scottish Police Force area in accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act of 2004.

At a national level, events as diverse as the July 7th bombings in London, avian flu alerts in Fife and Norfolk, Buncefield oil depot fire in Hertfordshire, rail crash in Cumbria and terrorist attack on Glasgow Airport remind us that emergencies can and do occur.

Locally, experience of foot and mouth, severe weather and flooding over recent years have highlighted the need for a timely, professional and co-ordinated response. Partner organisations need to plan, train and exercise jointly in order to be prepared and resilient in the face of such events. The community both expects and deserves an effective response.

Dumfries and Galloway's Major Emergency Scheme has proved to be an effective partnership over a number of years. However, the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 placed specific duties on a range of organisations and has now extended the scope of the work undertaken. These organisations are further supported by voluntary organisations and community groups.

As Chair of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group I would like to express appreciation for all the associated work undertaken by partner organisations and thank the network of supporting task groups that contribute so significantly for their commitment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philip Jones', written over a light red circular graphic element.

Philip Jones  
Chief Executive Dumfries and Galloway Council  
Chair of Strategic Co-ordinating Group

In response to the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA), 2004, Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Co-ordinating Group for civil protection was created in 2005, replacing the earlier Emergency Co-ordinating Group. Its purpose is to develop and enhance the arrangements already in place within the Dumfries and Galloway Major Emergency Scheme.

The aim of the CCA is to deliver a single framework for civil protection in the United Kingdom capable of meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century. The Act and its supporting Regulations establish a clear set of roles and responsibilities for those involved in emergency preparation and response at the local level.

The Act places different duties on two categories of local responders.

## Category 1

These are organisations at the core of the response to most emergencies and subject to the full set of civil protection duties.

## Category 2

These are organisations such as transport and utility companies. They tend to be less involved in the heart of emergency planning work beyond their own internal arrangements and have a lesser set of legal duties. However, they have the right to be invited to and attend meetings of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group.

Category 1 Responders	Category 2 Responders
Dumfries and Galloway Council	Utilities (Water, Gas, Electricity)
Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary	Telecoms Service Providers
Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service	Railway Operators
Dumfries and Galloway Health Board	Airport Operators
Scottish Ambulance Service	Harbour Authorities
Scottish Environment Protection Agency	Highway Authorities
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	Health and Safety Executive
	Common Services Agency (Health Protection Scotland)

All Category 1 organisations in Dumfries and Galloway are members of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group. The Act requires each organisation to co-operate and share relevant information with other Category 1 and 2 responders and to collaborate with them in planning, training and exercising activity when this is appropriate.

Under the civil contingencies act Category 1 organisations are 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.

A further duty on local authorities alone is to provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management.



The Dumfries and Galloway SCG agreed the following aim and objectives:

## Aim

Develop a multi agency work programme to enhance resilience and Civil Protection within Dumfries and Galloway, in light of the Scottish Government regulations and regulatory guidance on the Civil Contingencies Act.

## Objectives

Identify a work programme to address those duties under CCA that require a multi-agency response, ensuring a consistency of approach. Establish what work is to be carried out within member organisation and appoint a chair organisation for each work stream.

For planning purposes, the Strategic Co-ordinating Group is scheduled to meet on four occasions a year. It sets the strategic objectives and policy priorities for a range of working groups below it. The bulk of SCG work is then discharged through a Tactical Co-ordinating Group (TCG), Emergency Planning and Response Team (EPRT) and a network of working groups. In the event of an emergency, the SCG will meet to co-ordinate the overall response.



## Achievements in 2006–07

- A framework for conducting business was established with clear terms of reference for each of the key groups: SCG, TCG, EPRT and workstreams.
- A regular schedule of core meetings has been put in place for SCG, TCG and EPRT to undertake regular reporting and forward planning on agreed work programmes.
- Considerable progress has been made in addressing additional requirements arising from the CCA and assuring maintenance of existing arrangements through the framework established.

An auditing and monitoring group helps ensure that work is organised in the most effective way possible and that progress is closely monitored against an agreed work programme.

The Scottish Government has provided funding for a Programme Co-ordinator in each SCG in Scotland to undertake central secretariat functions and to carry out a linking role between the different organisations and working groups. This also provides a useful complement to other links between local and central arrangements.

## Community Risk Register

In accordance with the timetable set by the Civil Contingency Act Regulations, the SCG has compiled and published a Community Risk Register, which assesses potential hazards and their related control. This can be viewed at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/emergencyscheme>

The Register assists the SCG and its members to prioritise work, feeding into planning, training and exercising activities.

## Emergency Planning

There have been a number of key areas of development arising from assessment of current priorities:

- planning for an outbreak of pandemic influenza
- monitoring the need to extend arrangements for dealing with terrorism
- planning enhancements in relation to animal disease outbreaks
- enhancements for welfare support in emergencies
- improvements to communication infrastructures.

## Incidents During the Past Year

During 2006-07 there have fortunately been no emergencies on a scale that required the activation of the Major Emergency Scheme. Nonetheless member organisations have had to work together to respond to a number of serious occurrences.

### ***Road Traffic Collision, The Glen, Dumfries on 5th November 2006***

About 1500 hours on 5th November 2006, a multiple vehicle Road Traffic Collision occurred on the A75 Gretna – Stranraer road approximately 3 miles West Of Dumfries at an area known locally as 'The Glen.'

As a result of the Road Traffic Crash, which involved seven vehicles, three persons sustained fatal injuries. The Fire and Rescue Service extricated trapped persons using specialist cutting equipment and also assisted the Scottish Ambulance Service with casualty care. Casualties were transferred to Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary. Two persons were treated for serious injuries and four others discharged after receiving hospital treatment.

Diversions had to be put in place for both eastbound and westbound traffic on the A75 with the closure of the affected stretch of road lasting some 30 hours in order to carry out a full investigation of the crash scene.

### ***Young's Bluecrest, Annan on 8th March 2007***

On Thursday 8 March, Dumfries and Galloway Fire and Rescue Service responded to a fire at Young's Bluecrest, Port Street, Annan. A total of 7 fire appliances, 1 aerial ladder platform and an Incident Control Unit were in attendance with 48 Fire and Rescue Service personnel.

The fire spread quickly through part of the process plant and was contained by fire-fighters using breathing apparatus and hose jets.

The cause of the fire was investigated by Police and Fire investigators.

## Emergency exercises





A 3-year rolling programme of exercises for Dumfries and Galloway is constructed to address a number of requirements:

- the need to assess arrangements for hazards identified as higher risk in the Community Risk Register
- to fulfil statutory obligations for exercises to be conducted in certain areas
- to exercise key functions of the Major Emergency Scheme and provide learning and experience for the people involved in them.

In addition to this programme, cross-boundary and cross-border exercises explore issues arising from wide-area emergencies.

## Exercises completed in 2006-07

During 2006-07 members of the Dumfries and Galloway SCG have planned, delivered and evaluated a number of multi agency emergency exercises across the region. D&G personnel have also been involved in other exercises outside the region. Many staff from a very wide range of organisations have attended these exercises.

### *Wild Goose*

Explored the issues for local area teams surrounding the response to a serious road traffic collision involving a chemical release and serious fire.

### *Polar Star*

This cross-border and cross-boundary desktop exercise explored command and control arrangements between national and local levels for dealing with a prolonged period of severe weather covering northern of England and southern Scotland, with liaison between civil and military partners a key area of focus.

### *Thrang*

Assessed arrangements for dealing with a serious collision between a passenger ferry and oil tanker. The exercise explored both off-shore response and on-shore consequence management of the wide range of agencies that would play a part in responding to such an incident.

### *Muddy Waters*

Explored command, control and co-ordination issues for Dumfries and Galloway and Cumbria in relation to a serious incident involving cockling in the Solway.



## Planning Priorities for the Year Ahead

Work for 2007-08 is focused around:

- Reviewing and improving the way in which the SCG and individual member organisations communicate with the public, before, during and after an emergency
- Developing improvements in emergency communication between response organisations
- Maintaining the Community Risk Register
- Developing and delivering the agreed programme of emergency exercises
- Appropriate training for member organisations
- Developing and delivering a strategy for promoting Business Continuity Management to the business and voluntary sector.
- Ensuring continuing compliance with the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations (REPPPIR) in relation to Chapel Cross
- Further developing collaboration with other Scottish SCGs on integrated planning and response
- Developing cross-boundary and cross-border mutual aid.

## Exercises Scheduled for 2007-08



***Paperchase***

To exercise the link-up between police, hospital and council information systems that cater for the needs of people affected by an emergency.

***Casablanca***

To exercise the major accident plans for Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary

***Thunder***

To assess contingency arrangements for dealing with a major loss of gas supply for a prolonged period.

***Daisy***

To test arrangements for dealing with an outbreak of avian influenza

***Casanova***

To exercise the major accident plans for Stranraer hospital.

***Cascade V***

A Cumbria-led exercise focusing on road infrastructure problems, with a cross-border element involving D&G emergency services and council.

***Rough Pike***

A Cumbria-led exercise with a cross-border element involving D&G emergency services, council and MoD.





## Further information

Further information can be obtained from the following links.

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/emergencyscheme>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Justice/emergencies>