

Recovery Exercise – Identifying Potential Partners in Recovery

Background

Emergency planners cannot tackle community recovery on their own. Successful and effective recovery will require significant partner involvement.

The following scenario-based exercise can be used to identify who potential partners might be in the recovery phase of an emergency. This information can then be used to inform planning for recovery and engagement of partners.

The exercise is based on real-world scenarios from recent case studies involving a range of different emergencies. It assumes that you have an operational role and are actively involved in recovery work. The exercise is designed to be local and operational rather than strategic.

This exercise is designed to get you thinking about partnership working; not to map all potential partners. You are encouraged to use it at LRF or Local Authority level to provoke discussion and challenge those involved in recovering from an emergency in acting out the exercise.

Objectives

- To identify who your partners might be during the recovery phase, for a range of potential scenarios.
- To use this information to inform planning for recovery, including establishing relationships with the identified partners.
- To consider issues arising from engagement with partners, including effective sharing of information and data protection.

Partners may be individuals and/or departments within your own organisation or organisations external to you.

The exercise

This exercise is most effective when run using small groups consisting of a mix of local responders. Previous experience has shown that it is most effective when preceded by some form of scene and context setting such as a short presentation on why we do recovery. For further advice on how to run this exercise, please see [Making the partner exercise work – a guide for facilitators](#).

Step 1:

For each of the scenarios outlined in the [partner exercise template](#), identify who your partners might be in helping to achieve the desired outcome. These

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voluntary partners may be national organisations or local organisations, businesses and community groups specific to your local area.

Having identified the types of partners you may be working with in the recovery phase, you should think about how to embed this into your recovery planning. In some cases, relationships with the identified partners will already be established, perhaps through LRF membership. With others however, there may be a need to establish contacts and develop new relationships. Actions should therefore be identified and built into recovery planning. A selection of suggested example answers for the exercise can be found in the [example answers](#). These are not exhaustive or prescriptive and there may be many more locally-specific partners who can help you in the described scenarios. However, the example answers can be used as a basis for generating ideas and further discussion.

Step 2:

Having identified the potential partners who you may be working with in the recovery phase of an emergency, it can also be useful to consider how they would feed into/take part in your proposed recovery structures.

Using the [example Recovery Structure template](#), map your identified partners into the various groups suggested in the structure template. This structure and the sub-groups shown are for guidance only and may vary according to the nature of the emergency and the specific local context - you may therefore wish to identify additional / different sub-groups that may work for you locally.

Further information on the Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG) and the sub-groups shown in the structure template, including purpose, role and suggested membership, can be found in the [Recovery Plan guidance template](#).

Notes

All scenarios and examples provided in the exercise are from real incidents.

You may want to consider what (if anything) would be different if it was an incident with a large number of fatalities, or if it had been a man-made incident rather than a natural disaster.

Links to other topic sheets

[Recovery structures and processes](#)

[Data sharing and data protection](#)

[Community cohesion](#)

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Links to case studies

[Buncefield Fire, 11 December 2005](#)

[Carlisle Flooding, 8 January 2005](#)

[Flooding in Yorkshire and the Humber, June 2007](#)

[Lewes Flooding, 12 October 2000](#)

Link to other contacts

The [Emergency Planning College](#) runs courses on recovery and is also able to offer further advice and guidance about developing and implementing a training and exercising strategy.