

## Exercise Green Gate Recommendations Published



Towards the end of March the finalised report for the CBRN decontamination Exercise Green Gate was issued. A summary version of the report is available from the ScoRDS website – [www.scords.gov.uk](http://www.scords.gov.uk).

The classified report makes five strategic recommendations, supported by a further 23 detailed recommendations.

The strategic recommendations are:

- **Recommendation 1:** Resilience Advisory Board for Scotland (RABS) CBRN to work with the Home Office led Emergency Services Steering Group (ESSG) to revise the “Guidance for the Emergency Services on the Decontamination of People Exposed to Hazardous Chemical,
- **Recommendation 2:** Biological or Radiological Substances” with particular emphasis on the initial response.
- **Recommendation 3:** Resilience Advisory Board for Scotland (RABS) CBRN to work with the UK Government to clarify arrangements for scientific and technical advice in the early stages of a CBRN incident.
- **Recommendation 4:** Scottish Resilience and

partners to progress the development of single and multi-agency CBRN Commander training and exercising requirements.

- **Recommendation 5:** Scottish Resilience to work with the Home Office CBRN Communications group, offering their experience of communicating with the public on a local and national scale about the potential for a CBRN incident.

In summing up the exercise, Exercise Director, Neil Murray commented, “Exercise Green Gate was a challenging and successfully delivered exercise. I am confident the lessons from Exercise Green Gate will influence the way the emergency services deal with potential CBRN terrorist attacks in the future. I am also in no doubt that this exercise has served to improve the safety of the public and emergency responders.”

Request for copies of the full classified report should be emailed to [scords@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:scords@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

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## EPS conference, June

The Emergency Planning Society’s annual conference is being held in Glasgow this year. The event, A Decade of Disasters: Part Two, is also being supported by Scottish Resilience. [Click here for more information](#)

## Members of RABS T&E

The members of RABS Training and Exercising for 2010 are:

- Ian Walford, Chair
- Gregor Lindsay, ScoRDS
- Andrew Tatnell, Scottish Police College
- Bill Lyons SEPA
- Chris Simmonds, SG Corporate Learning
- Colin Ramsay, HPS
- Ian Birnie, ACPOS
- Gary Hardacre, Scottish Ambulance Service
- Harry Scott, SG - Health
- Iain Campbell, MCGA
- Jeannie Barr, EPS (Scottish Branch)
- John Ironside, CFOA
- John Kelly, Military
- Liz Critchley, Civil Contingencies Secretariat
- Malcolm Wilson, SOLACE
- Ross Armstrong, Utilities
- Rupert Hine, Animal Health
- Steve Hick, SCG Representatives
- William Millar, British Red Cross

The scheduled meetings for the rest of 2010 are **21 July** and **18 November**.

# RABS Training & Exercising

The Resilience Advisory Board for Scotland and its sub groups provide strategic direction to focus civil contingencies planning. In this article we'll look at how the Training and Exercising group influences and supports activity in Scotland.

RABS T&E is a forum for senior representatives from many organisations to discuss the major issues facing the professional development of resilience practitioners. The membership of the group discuss and agree the direction for training, exercising and other learning and development projects.

The RABS T&E group brings together a wide range of stakeholders (see sidebar for current membership list). It provides an opportunity to get everyone round the table to give both their individual perspective and to represent their respective communities.

This group has been running for almost three years, in which time both ScoRDS programmes and the group membership have been constantly evolving.

There are three meetings per year, in

Perth, and ScoRDS core staff submit papers or deliver presentations to the group. But this group doesn't automatically rubberstamp the programmes, members discuss and question the proposal presented, they request further information, or more investigative work for ScoRDS to take forward.

### BIG ISSUES

Ian Walford, Chair of the group, commented that, "*the biggest issues for learning and development are the decreasing resources, all round, and the increasing demand on resilience practitioners.*" He explained that risks are evolving and there is a growing demand for resilience skills to spread through all sectors. Ian sees RABS T&E playing a vital role in ensuring that learning products have the widest possible use and give maximum value.

### SHARING THE INFO

Until now, RABS T&E group papers have been circulated around the group members, and they in turn have the responsibility of sharing those papers with their communities. However, we will now be publishing all non-restricted papers on the [ScoRDS website](#) so you can see the discussions and agreements which impact on your professional development.

### HAVE YOUR SAY

The RABS group is an opportunity for practitioners to shape their profession. Do you think the group should be more challenging? Do we have a broad enough representation, or would you like to see different or more people in the group? Let us know what you think by emailing [ScoRDS](#).

## A view from the voluntary sector

At the RABS T&E meetings [William Millar](#) represents the British Red Cross and indirectly, the wider voluntary sector. The biggest issues for both the voluntary and the wider ER sector that William identified are, "*around engagement: implementing lessons; developing and establishing benchmarks; and developing a career path that provides long-term participation*". He sees the RABS meetings as a facility to support these issues. He also explained that the output of the RABS meetings is shared with emergency response leads in each of the British Red Cross Scottish areas, and relevant matters of importance will be communicated to the voluntary sector via future RABS(VS) meetings at which he is co-secretary.

# Neon Mac Workshop, June 2010

As part of the National Exercise Programme, Scottish Resilience is holding a one-day table top workshop to consider the deployment of National Emergency Mortuary Arrangements (NEMA) on Tuesday 15 June 2010 at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh.

The National Emergency Mortuary Arrangements provide emergency responders with forensic pathology and mortuary facilities for up to 600 fatalities.

The aim of the workshop is: "To assess Scotland's ability to support the deployment of the National Emergency Mortuary Arrangements in order to build a Safer and Stronger Scotland".

A planning group with SCG, local authority, Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Office, Major Investigation Coordination and Development Unit

DVI, mortuary management/NHS, Home Office, KBR and police force representation met on 15 March to discuss the planning and delivery of the workshop.

The workshop will explore the following:

- assessment of need for central assistance (NEMA)
- call out
- deployment
- integration of local physical resources and with command and

control arrangements

- ability to sustain operations.

Workshop participation will include the police, local authorities, COPFS, NHS, SCG coordinators, Home Office and KBR (with whom Home Office hold the NEMA contract).

A report addressing the key learning points and any actions from the workshop will be made available for the use of responders across Scotland.

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## Kenny MacAskill launches Resilience Management Award



Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Mr Kenny MacAskill (pic above, right), launched the new PDA in Resilience Management at Coatbridge College, saying "this qualification is an important step in putting our practitioners on a stronger professional footing".

Also speaking at the launch was Marc Beveridge (pic above, left), Chair of the Emergency Planning Society. He reiterated that any student completing the PDA will be eligible for membership status of the EPS, or, if they are already a member, can use the award to contribute towards more than one year's CPD points.

The college has worked closely with ScoRDS, lecturers and industry experts in order to ensure the PDA is a highly relevant qualification. The course will be accessible across Scotland, regardless of geographical location as it will be delivered through distance learning, workshops and online learning forums.

The pilot course starts on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April and the next course is planned for August 2010. Contact [Suzanne Wilkie](mailto:Suzanne.Wilkie@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) to note your interest in the August course.

## New journal for practitioners - call for papers



**Emergency Management Review (EMR)** is an official journal of the Emergency Planning Society.

This peer reviewed journal aims to facilitate an exchange of knowledge in all areas of emergency management and civil protection between the academic and practitioner

fields. It provides an international forum where broadly defined 'lessons' can emerge from many different sources, including commissioned and academic research, field based good practice and experiential case studies. **EMR** is published quarterly and available to access online at no cost to the reader.

A key aim of **EMR** is to encourage academics and practitioners alike, including those new to the field, to publish their 'works in progress' and early results from research that can provide 'actionable knowledge' that has rigour and demonstrable relevance to practitioners. **EMR** would also welcome submissions

from doctoral/research students who wish to publish early research findings. **EMR** is also seeking to encourage resilience practitioners to publish accounts of good practice, new and innovative ways of delivering effective emergency management and civil protection and case studies that are relevant, robust evidence based articles.

Those wishing to submit an article for review and publication in **EMR** should send extended abstracts of 500 to 1,000 words or completed articles of 4,000 to 5,000 words to the editor, Eve Coles **via email** at the following address [e.l.coles@lubs.leeds.ac.uk](mailto:e.l.coles@lubs.leeds.ac.uk)

## Diary

20—22 April, BAPCO 2010,  
Business Design Centre,  
Islington, London  
[www.bapco.org.uk](http://www.bapco.org.uk)

10-11 June, HART Inner  
Cordon 2010, Liverpool BT  
Convention Centre  
[www.healthcare-events.co.uk](http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk)

21-23 June, Emergency  
Planning Society, SECC,  
Glasgow  
[www.epsconference2010.org](http://www.epsconference2010.org)

28-30 June , CBRN Resilience  
2010, London  
Improving inter-agency  
cooperation to enhance  
capabilities and maximise  
readiness.  
[www.cbrnresilience.com](http://www.cbrnresilience.com)

### Knowledge Development Grant



Have you seen an event which  
would be useful for your  
professional practice??

If you are unable to secure  
funding, then why not check  
out the [Knowledge  
Development Grant](#). We may  
be able to provide funding for  
up to £700.

Please contact Gemma Bain  
[Gemma.Bain@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Gemma.Bain@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## ScoRDS Update

We're always looking for  
new material, so if you  
have information you would  
like to share with the wider  
resilience community  
across Scotland, then  
please get in touch with  
Kerry Jardine.

[kerry.jardine@  
scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:kerry.jardine@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

## Current awareness - Social media and disasters

Social media is changing the way we share information about disasters. Online news sources include citizen driven social media such as blogs, photo and video sharing and networking technologies such as Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter. These communication mechanisms are increasing but little is known about the attention public officials devote to accessing, monitoring, and addressing public communication through social media.

**Social Media Monitoring and the Democratic National Convention: New Tasks and Emergent Processes.** Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Volume 6, Issue 1 2009 Article 67.

This article makes a number of recommendations for media monitoring activities in future crisis and disaster response, e.g. attention must be given to social media communications at all phases of disaster to

assess the effectiveness of risk communication, public protective action taking, and ongoing community recovery. It also highlights that support must be given to encourage the use of these tools, including ensuring that public officials can access social media tools through their IT systems.

**Ushahidi** was originally designed as a tool for mapping reports of violence in Kenya after the post-election unrest in 2008. Immediately after the earthquakes struck Haiti, the Ushahidi team adapted the platform for crisis reporting and mapping for the area. Anyone in or outside of Haiti could use the tool via the web or on a mobile phone to make reports with voice, text or video; the reports were then mapped and sources verified. At the time of writing, nearly 1,300 reports had been placed via SMS, and reports are still coming in. Those not in Haiti can also use the application as it aggregates news and

actions to take.

**The Extraordinaries** launched a mobile application last year that lets users take advantage of moments of free time to volunteer via their phone. Once the earthquakes shook Haiti the Extraordinaries volunteers used their mobile phones to sort through news photos—tagging images and matching them to missing people—to help to reconnect families.

**Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service** tested a pilot system using a Bluetooth mobile transmitter with a range of up to 250m to send out brief messages which could be accepted by anyone in the area with a Bluetooth enabled device.

Read a summary of an expert panel discussion conducted during Social Media Week in February this year about [Social Media & the Haiti Disaster: How the Social Boom Has \(and Hasn't\) Changed the News Media](#)

## Book review - Streetlights and Shadows, Gary Klein

The title refers to the ancient joke: a policeman finds a drunk late at night, hunting for lost keys under a streetlamp. 'Is this where you dropped them?' the cop asks. 'No,' comes the reply, 'but this is where it's light enough to see.'

The reference is to the kinds of rules about decision making which amount to conventional

wisdom. For example, teach people procedures to ensure they make better decisions; collect as much information as possible before you jump to a decision; start any project with a clear description of the goal. There are situations in which the decision rules we buy into in theory do a good job. But these are

straightforward, non-complex situations, which are pretty rare in life - and especially in the kinds of jobs in which they are often applied. The book is stuffed with practical advice for improving one's own decision-making skills.

Preview the book for free on [Google Books](#)