

# Implementing the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 the voluntary and statutory sectors working together

The voluntary sector plays a valuable role in civil contingency planning and response. This has been recognised in the recent Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the signatories below wish to reinforce their commitment to working together to ensure the best possible response to civil emergencies. We seek to ensure that the voluntary sector is involved in emergency planning in ways that usefully draw upon the expertise of individual organisations and acknowledge their preparedness to respond effectively to emergencies in partnership with other agencies.

In making this agreement, we recognise that the voluntary sector is varied and that a wide range of voluntary organisations have a valuable contribution to make to emergency planning at a local level. Similarly, the localities in which they operate and the populations with whom they work are diverse, and so what is appropriate at a local level will also vary. There may also be variations in need across the different stages of an emergency and once any immediate dangers have passed. Accordingly, the contribution of the voluntary sector to civil contingency planning and responses will be made across a very wide range of activities. The benefits that voluntary organisations will deliver will reflect their unique ability to understand and meet the needs of affected individuals and communities. Through their involvement in civil contingencies planning and response, valuable support will be provided to category 1 responders.

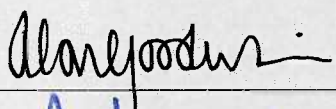
In working together, category 1 responders and the voluntary sector should seek to achieve:

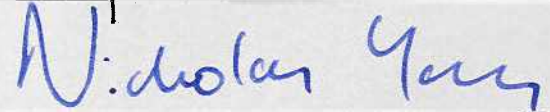
- A clear understanding of the roles, responsibilities and capacity of statutory responders and the voluntary sector
- Regular communication between statutory responders and the voluntary sector

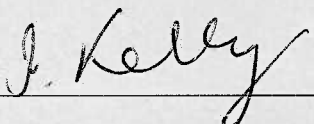
- Joint training where appropriate between statutory responders and the voluntary sector to ensure all agencies know and understand each others roles and responsibilities and capabilities
- Consultation and agreement, where appropriate, of the voluntary sector roles and responsibilities in statutory responders' plans and procedures
- Voluntary sector membership of all appropriate working groups on emergency planning in Local Resilience forum areas
- Agreed call out arrangements between category 1 responders and voluntary sector organisations, so the voluntary sector can respond appropriately to emergency situations and are included in ways that are within their capabilities
- Participation in joint exercises to validate emergency plans and joint working relationships, and to improve confidence of each statutory and voluntary agency in the others capacity, roles and responsibilities
- Participation in review and evaluation

Statutory agencies should recognise that the voluntary sector needs to have the capacity to engage in planning and preparing for civil emergencies and that there is value in public agencies investing in capacity building for the voluntary sector.

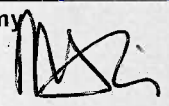
At a local level, category 1 responders and the voluntary sector are already likely to have established relationships through Compacts and Local Strategic Partnerships. Emergency planning processes should relate to these frameworks where they exist. Agencies should also consider other local initiatives involving the statutory and voluntary sectors. These might encompass efforts to improve partnership working and capacity building schemes.

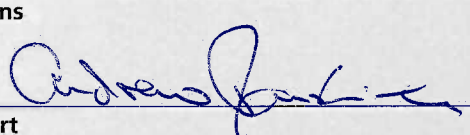
  
ACPO

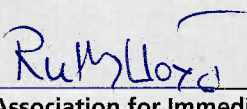
  
British Red Cross

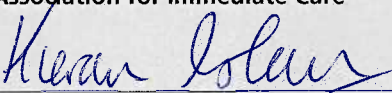
  
CRUSE bereavement care

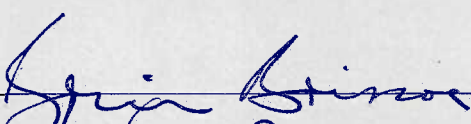
  
Salvation Army

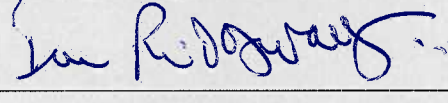
  
The Samaritans

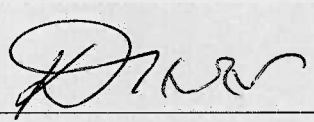
  
Victim Support

  
British Association for Immediate Care

  
CFOA

  
LGA

  
St John Ambulance

  
WRVS