

ADVISORY INFORMATION FOR SERVICES:-
GRAB PACK FACILITY FOR NEW DIMENSION DEPLOYMENTS - EAST MIDLANDS
REGION

This paper is intended for consideration by East Midlands Resilience Board members in order to provide guidance on generic support arrangements required when New Dimension assets are deployed to national events.

History

The deployment of High Volume Pumps to national events has raised the profile of ‘welfare’ arrangements for responding crews. A paper on the subject was presented to the Resilience Board and a small work group was established in order to explore available options.

The group undertook a review of the range of equipment included in existing ‘grab packs’ provided by a limited numbers of Fire and Rescue Services in England and Wales. They found disparity in the level of equipment provided and that predominantly grab packs currently available were supplied for use by HVP and USAR crews.

The paper identifies the generic contents of a ‘grab pack’ and presents Principal Management with a ‘*pick list*’ of items considered suitable for inclusion in the pack. When assessing the proposed contents of the grab pack consideration must be given to the likelihood of asset mobilisation, and the length of deployment, i.e. it is more likely that a HVP will be committed for several days than an IRU committed for one day, therefore a ‘one size’ fits all approach may not be appropriate. The paper also lists suggested items of communication equipment required to assist the Welfare officer in his/her duties.

Welfare support requirements are modelled on research and feedback carried out by the New Dimension National Team and operational debriefs reports following previous extended deployments.

Recommendation to Resilience Board.

1. Principal Officers consider the provision of ‘grab packs’ for crews deployed to level 4 incidents.
2. The role of the ‘welfare’ officer is recognised and suitable communications equipment and training are provided.
3. Adopt the concept of the deployment contact information form (App A, page 6)
4. Due to the relatively low cost of items contained in the grab pack, FireBuy do not consider savings can be made by sourcing grab packs nationally.

Planning Assumptions

The planning assumptions for this paper are that an individual will be away from home/base location for several days, and needs to be self sufficient for the first 24 hours. It is assumed that the individual will be deploying in a service vehicle from their Fire & Rescue Service/Brigade or Region. This paper does not include any items of Personal Protective Equipment or any other equipment issued by the individual’s Fire & Rescue Service/Brigade may provide.

The paper offers generic guidance and is divided into the following sections;

| | |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| Section 1 | Clothing |
| Section 2 | Hygiene Items |
| Section 3 | Bedding |
| Section 4 | Food and Drink provision |
| Section 5 | Storage/Carrying Items |
| Section 6 | Grab Pack Contents |
| Section 7 | Welfare Officer Support |

Each section includes its’ own planning assumptions in addition to the assumptions noted above.

SECTION 1 CLOTHING

As the individuals will be deployed throughout the year in a variety of weather conditions the clothing provision is based on the 'layering' principle.

Good quality clothing must be provided as it must be comfortable over extended periods of time and be hard wearing.

All clothing should be laundered by machine wherever possible for maximum cleanliness.

The clothing should be separated into gender specific clothing, sized appropriately and the bags clearly identified for gender.

Footwear

It is assumed that the individuals will wear service issue footwear whilst driving but comfortable shoes are required during rest periods.

Socks

Service issue socks should be provided to replace wet or used items; four pair for incident wear, and four pairs for rest wear.

Trousers

One pair of trousers should be provided for use whilst the person is at rest and a further pair for work.

Underwear

Due to personal preferences it would be advisable for individuals to supply their own underwear but a minimum of four pairs would be recommended for the three day planning assumption.

Base Layer Polo Shirt

The specially constructed fabric rapidly draws moisture away from the body and disperses it over a large area for super fast evaporation into the surrounding atmosphere.

Base Layer T Shirts

An additional long and short sleeve top should also be provided as an alternative to the polo shirt.

Base Layer Long Johns

To compliment the trousers issued above a pair of long johns is advised for cooler weather conditions.

Mid Layer

A zip top acts as an outer/mid layer with its high roll down collar which provides air flow and its soft feeling fabric. In the winter it can become a base layer, providing insulation with a tight fit to help retain warmth.

Fleece Jacket

These jackets are warm, breathable, waterproof and windproof with condensation control.

Gloves

Gloves should be warm, lightweight and water resistant.

Hat

Warm and lightweight

SECTION 2 HYGIENE ITEMS

It is advised that this list is used as a guide and individuals purchase their own items on the basis of personal needs and preferences.

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Comb | <u>Female Hygiene Items</u> |
| Deodorant | Hair Bands |
| Face Cloth | Hair Brush |
| Hand Cream | Moisturiser |
| Nail Brush | Sanitary Towels/ Tampons |
| Nail Clippers | Sanitary wear disposal bag |
| Shampoo/Conditioner | |
| Shower Gel | <u>Male Hygiene Items</u> |
| Soap | Disposable Razors |
| Sun Cream | Shaving Foam |
| Tape (for rings) | |
| Toilet Tissues | |
| Toiletries Bag | |
| Toothbrush | |
| Toothpaste | |
| Towel (Bath) | |
| Travel Wash | |
| Wet Wipes | |

As a rough approximation the Hygiene Items would cost £30 per person, at the cost of each individual Fire and Rescue Service.

SECTION 3 BEDDING

It is assumed that 'accommodation' will be provided, however the standard of accommodation can not be assumed. The bedding provision in this paper is based on, for example, a room in a church hall, school, fire station etc provided for accommodation. The standard of accommodation should be reasonable and such that privacy can be maintained. It has been noted in prolonged deployments that individual's performance decreases without good quality rest and food so individuals must ensure that their accommodation will provide good rest facilities with minimal interruptions and protected from the elements.

SECTION 4 FOOD AND DRINK PROVISION

It is assumed that after 24 hours the host Fire and Rescue Service would have arranged for feeding provision so this paper provides for food and drinking water for this first 24 hour period.

It has been noted in prolonged deployments that individual's performance decreases without good quality rest and food so individuals must ensure that they have good quality nutritious meals and not rely on the 'snacks' provided by canteen facilities provided at the incident.

It is recommended that individuals should drink one to two litres of water a day (Source: NHS Direct) so individuals should have at least 3 litres of drinking water provided. Experience has shown that FRS personnel should have their own provision as there may be no drinking water supplies at all. It is essential that any water issued should be monitored so that it is not used past its 'best before date'.

SECTION 5 STORAGE/CARRYING ITEMS

To ensure all items are transported together a carryall of a suitable size should be provided

SECTION 6 WELFARE PACK CONTENTS

Suggested contents of Welfare Pack

| Item | Cost(£) | Notes |
|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| Section 1-Clothing | | |
| Footwear-Rest period | | |
| Socks-Incident (4pairs) | | |
| Socks-Rest (4 pairs) | | |
| Trousers (1) – Incident | | |
| Trousers (1)- Rest | | |
| Base Layer (1) | | |
| Base Layer-short sleeve top | | |
| Base Layer-long sleeve top | | |
| Long Johns | | |
| Mid Layer – Zip Top | | |
| Fleece Jacket | | |
| disposable underwear (4) | | |
| Gloves | | |
| Hat | | |
| Section 2–Hygiene Items | | |
| Toiletries Bag | | |
| Comb | | |
| Deodorant | | |
| Face Cloth | | |
| Hand Cream | | |
| Nail Brush | | |
| Nail Clippers | | |
| Shampoo/Conditioner | | |
| Shower Gel | | |
| Soap | | |
| Sun Cream | | Factor 25 |
| Tape (for rings) | | |
| Toilet Tissues | | |
| Toothbrush | | |
| Toothpaste | | |
| Towel (Bath) | | |
| Travel Wash | | |
| Wet Wipes | | |
| Section 2–Hygiene Items (Female) | | |
| Hair Bands | | |
| Hair Brush | | |
| Moisturiser | | |
| Sanitary Towels/ Tampons | | |
| Sanitary wear disposal bag | | |
| Section 2–Hygiene Items (Male) | | |
| Disposable Razors | | |
| Shaving Foam | | |
| Section 3- Bedding | | |
| foam ground sheet | | |
| Sleeping Bag liner | | |
| Sleeping Bag | | |
| Pillow (Inflatable) | | |
| Pillow Case | | |
| Section 4-Food/Drinking Provision | | |
| Drinking Water (3 litres) | | |
| self heating meals (4) | | |
| Snacks (6) | | |
| Section 5-Storage/Carrying Items | | |
| holdall for the above | | |
| Waist Bags | | |
| Large Plastic Bags | | To hold reusable/serviceable items |

SECTION 7 WELFARE OFFICER SUPPORT

Services need to make provision for Welfare Officers to operate effectively. The following are things that Services may wish to consider:

Communications

To ensure that Welfare Officers can communicate, they could have a telephone and/or email access. A mobile telephone or Blackberry communication device could be available with an appropriate network card. To compliment this, hands-free and car charging equipment may also be considered.

Lap Top

A lap top which supports the current (and predicted) software in common use. To ensure connectivity, the lap top should be 'wireless enabled' and be provided with a data card.

The lap top should be provided with a portable colour printer. Both lap top and printer should be as energy efficient as possible and have the provision to be charged/run from the individual's vehicle.

Car Adaptor

If phones and communications equipment are provided, a method of charging/operating from a car or mains supply should be considered.

Tetra/Fire link Radio

A Tetra radio should be considered to ensure a Talk Group facility as well as an additional phone link.

Corporate Credit Card/Money

Consideration should be given to the provision of a credit card or petty cash for use by the welfare officer, this allows for the easy payment to secure food and accommodation should it be required by responding crews. In certain circumstances it may be appropriate to use for personal needs, i.e. medication/social use etc.

Individual Contact Details

It is suggested that in order to assist with the management of staff at a New Dimension incident that welfare officers gather contact information at the incident ground using the 'personal contact information form' found in appendix 1 below.

National deployment nominated contact details form

Your details

Name

Base station & watch.....

Standby station (if appropriate).....

Your mobile telephone number.....

Vehicle callsign.....

Deployment location.....

Nominated contact

Please nominate 1 contact only. Your contact can cascade information to others if required.

Nominated contacts will be informed that you are deployed to an incident out of County and the likely duration of the deployment.

Your nominated contact will also be provided with regular updates and informed of any relevant change in circumstances that will affect the duration of the deployment.

Please use the space below to record any particular details you wish to be passed on or any other persons you wish to be informed of your deployment.

Nominated contact number.....

Nominated contact name.....

Message for nominated contact.....
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.....

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Mike Thomas
Secretary for Employer's Side

Date.....

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Dave Limer
Secretary for Union Side