Welcome to the Winter instalment of the COMAH and Pipelines Newsletter. As always we like to keep you up to date with new information and feedback from events that have happened within the past 6 months.

**Command & Control Training**
Since the last edition of the newsletter we have had quite a bit of interest regarding the command and control training and would like to continue offering sites the opportunity to hold these sessions. They are a useful tool for those sites in particular who are due to have their External Emergency Plan exercised within a few months.

The 2 hour sessions will include presentations from HEPS and the four key emergency responders (police, fire, ambulance and coastguard). They will provide sites with a better understanding of what the command and control structure will look like in the event of a COMAH incident.

There is a small fee attached but full details can be provided. If you are interested and would like more information please email us at comah@eastriding.gov.uk

**Flood workshop – Feedback 5th November 2015**
The flooding workshop was attended by a small number of sites who are located within a flood risk zone. The purpose was to consider the effects that catastrophic east coast tidal flooding could have on a COMAH site.

The ability to understand the effects that such an event could have on a COMAH site is critical in our collective work on planning for a catastrophic east coast tidal surge event. We know that such an event will affect different sites in different ways, not simply because there are different risks of flooding to different sites, but also because the effects of an unplanned shutdown on some sites will have different effects to other sites.

Sites were asked to complete an assessment tool to identify what flood prevention methods would be required as well as what support may be needed and what the consequences could be if the site isn’t protected against a flooding event.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact us at comah@eastriding.gov.uk

**COMAH Good Practice Workshop – 25th November 2015**
The workshop was offered to Local Authority colleagues from around the UK and its aim was to share COMAH good practice amongst the group. The main topics discussed were:

- COMAH exercising
- Generic plans for sites
- Communicating with the public
- Consultation with the public
- Internal and External plans

From the discussions that took place it was obvious that there is a lot of new ideas / methods that can be adapted and used in other areas to benefit the COMAH planning / exercising process.

The group as a whole felt that this workshop was extremely useful and want to make it an annual event.
Recent Exercises

**Tata Steel (September 2015)**
An incident on site caused a release of Benzole and gas. The exercise initially tested Tata’s emergency response and activation of the off-site plan and subsequently the warning and informing methods used to successfully communicate to the wider public including the local shopping park. Representatives from the multi-agency communications teams attended to test the LRF communications plan.

**Rawcliffe PSD (October 2015)**
A storage tank develops a leak during an import of fuel, which eventually finds an ignition source creating a large black plume of smoke which drifts towards the M62. The main elements tested were warning and informing methods, traffic management and understanding command and control structures.

**Centrica Storage (November 2015)**
A large condensate fire is producing a thick black plume of smoke which is drifting over Easington village. In particular the exercise focused on the multi-agency command and control structures, the ambulance services response to this incident, communication and media management and possible domino effects created by an incident of this nature.

**SSE Aldbrough (December 2015)**
This exercise involved a release of gas which ignited causing a jet fire, affecting the immediate community. The main objectives were to test the live plan activation process (999 calls), build a better understanding of the multi-agency command and control structures and test the warning and informing process and community liaison / communication procedures.

Upcoming Exercises

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Council Area</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phillips 66 Humber Refinery</td>
<td>17th February 2016</td>
<td>North Lincolnshire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yara UK</td>
<td>16th March 2016</td>
<td>East Riding of Yorkshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>BASF Performance Products</td>
<td>23rd March 2016</td>
<td>North East Lincolnshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Lindsey Oil Refinery</td>
<td>13th April 2016</td>
<td>North Lincolnshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABP Fertiliser Terminal</td>
<td>11th May 2016</td>
<td>North East Lincolnshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novartis Grimsby Limited</td>
<td>15th June 2016</td>
<td>North East Lincolnshire</td>
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Charging Updates
In the new COMAH regulations (reg 29.) there is a suggestion that all designated authorities (core responders) can charge for their participation in the testing of external emergency plans. We contacted all parties who are involved in our exercise process and the good news is that only Humberside Police, Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and the Ambulance Services will be charging for their involvement. Details of this will be discussed prior to the External Emergency Plan exercise taking place.

Annual Invoices
A quick reminder that the Annual Plan maintenance and development charge will be issued early 2016. I will be writing out to each site to confirm final costs before Christmas.

Plan Review / Reissue
Following the implementation of the new COMAH Regulations 2015 we have reviewed and updated our COMAH plan templates. There are many noticeable changes which have forced us to have yet another revamp of the documentation.

Each upper tier site will receive a newly packaged Site Specific External Plan and Universal plan early 2016. A confirmation email will be sent out when they are on their way.

The new templates are available on our website [www.letsgetready.org.uk](http://www.letsgetready.org.uk)
Secure Email
Earlier this year we were given access to a secure email portal which allows us to send protectively marked documents such as COMAH plans to recognised recipients. This will make reviewing and updating of plans much easier and quicker.

Access to your document couldn’t be easier, you will receive an email informing you that a member of HEPS has sent you a document and all you have to do is follow the instructions in the email. This involves creating a log in and password which you can use to access new and future documentation.

We even have a team at the council who can support any technical issues you have.

Future Newsletters
Our next newsletter will be issued in the Summer. If there are any particular articles you would like to see in the next edition please contact us.

Email: comah@eastriding.gov.uk or telephone: 01482 393058.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Lisa, Margaret & Becky

Humber Emergency Planning Service COMAH Team