Information Assessment

Interoperability will be enhanced if information is assessed for:

RELEVANCE	In the current situation, how well does the information meet the needs of the end user?
ACCURACY	How well does the information reflect the underlying reality?
TIMELINESS	How current is the information?
SOURCE RELIABILITY	Does previous experience of this source indicate the likely quality of the information?
CREDIBILITY	Is the information supported or contradicted by other information?

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IIMARCH

INFORMATION

What, where, when, how, how many, so what, what might?

Timeline and history (if applicable), key facts reported using M/ETHANE

INTENT

Why are we here, what are we trying to achieve?
Strategic aim and objectives, joint working strategy

METHOD

How are we going to do it?

Command, control and co-ordination arrangements, tactical and operational policy and plans, contingency plans

ADMINISTRATION

What is required for effective, efficient and safe implementation?

Identification of commanders, tasking, timing, decision logs, equipment, dress code, PPE, welfare, food, logistics

RISK ASSESSMENT

What are the relevant risks, and what measures are required to mitigate them?

To reflect the JESIP principle of Joint Understanding of Risk and using the ERICPD hierarchy for risk control as appropriate

COMMUNICATIONS

How are we going to initiate and maintain communications with all partners and interested parties?

Other means of communication, understanding of inter-agency communications, information assessment, media handling and joint media strategy

HUMANITARIAN ISSUES

What humanitarian assistance and human rights issues arise or may arise from this event and the response to it?

Requirement for humanitarian assistance, information sharing and disclosure, potential impacts on individuals' human rights

Have you identified any learning?

Consider:

- What worked well and what didn't work well?
- What do I need to feed into my local de-brief procedures?
  - Joint hot de-brief (where possible)
  - Single service de-brief
  - Multi-agency de-brief

To continually improve joint working the national Joint Organisational Learning (JOL) arrangements have been established to capture, share and act on interoperability lessons from past events. Lessons meeting the criteria below should be submitted:

- relate to emergency response interoperability from any of the agencies involved;
- had an impact on the effectiveness of at least two of the responding agencies;
- impeded successful interoperability;
- are known recurring issues; and/or
- if resolved could benefit other agencies therefore may have national impact.

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Principles for Joint Working

CO-LOCATE

Co-locate with commanders as soon as practicably possible at a single, safe and easily identified location near to the scene.

COMMUNICATE

Communicate clearly using plain English.

CO-ORDINATE

Co-ordinate by agreeing the lead service. Identify priorities, resources and capabilities for an effective response, including the timing of further meetings.

JOINTLY UNDERSTAND RISK

Jointly understand risk by sharing information about the likelihood and potential impact of threats and hazards to agree potential control measures.
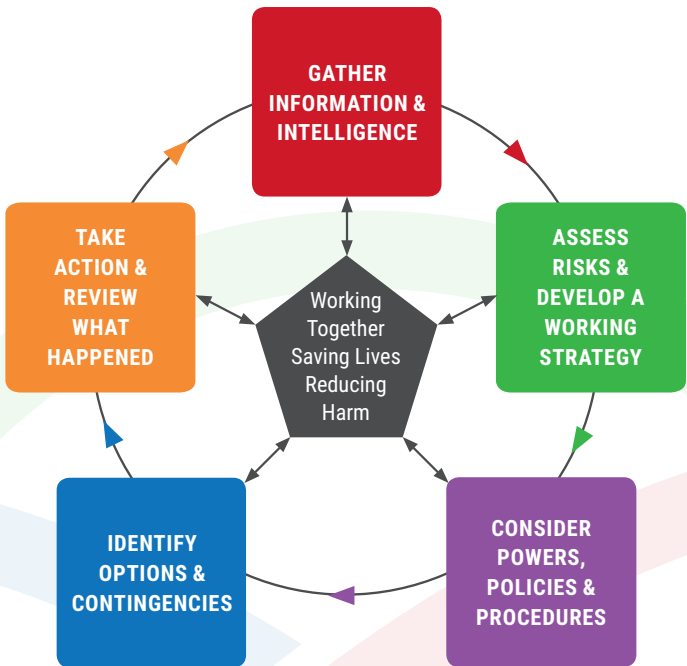
SHARED SITUATION AWARENESS

Shared Situational Awareness established by using METHANE and the Joint Decision Model.

Shared Situational Awareness

M	**M**AJOR INCIDENT	Has a major incident or standby been declared? (Yes / No - if no, then complete ETHANE message)
E	**E**XACT LOCATION	What is the exact location or geographical area of the incident?
T	**T**YPE OF INCIDENT	What kind of incident is it?
H	**H**AZARDS	What hazards or potential hazards can be identified?
A	**A**CCESS	What are the best routes for access and egress?
N	**N**UMBER OF CASUALTIES	How many casualties are there, and what condition are they in?
E	**E**MERGENCY SERVICES	Which and how many, emergency responder assets/personnel are required or are already on-scene?

Joint Decision Model

Decision Controls

A) WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?	What goals are linked to this decision? What is the rationale, and is that jointly agreed? Does it support working together, saving lives and reducing harm?
B) WHAT DO WE THINK WILL HAPPEN?	What is the likely outcome of the action; in particular what is the impact on the objective and other activities? How will the incident change as a result of these actions, what outcomes do we expect?
C) IN LIGHT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, IS THE BENEFIT PROPORTIONAL TO THE RISK?	Do the benefits of proposed actions justify the risks that would be accepted?
D) DO WE HAVE A COMMON UNDERSTANDING AND POSITION ON:	The situation, its likely consequences and potential outcomes? The available information, critical uncertainties and key assumptions? Terminology and measures being used by all those involved in the response? Individual agency working practices related to a joint response? Conclusions drawn and communications made?
E) AS AN INDIVIDUAL:	Is the collective decision in line with my professional judgement and experience? Have we (as individuals and as a team) reviewed the decision with critical rigour? Are we (as individuals and as a team) content that this decision is the best practicable solution?

Joint Understanding of Risks

IDENTIFY HAZARDS	This begins with the initial call to a control room and continues as first responders arrive on scene. Information gathered by individual agencies should be disseminated to all first responders, control rooms and partner agencies effectively.
CARRY OUT A DYNAMIC RISK ASSESSMENT (DRA)	Individual agencies carry out dynamic risk assessments, reflecting the tasks/objectives to be achieved, the hazards identified and the likelihood of harm from those hazards. The results should then be shared with any other agencies involved.
IDENTIFY TASKS	Each individual agency should identify and consider their specific tasks, according to their role and responsibilities. These tasks should then be assessed in the context of the incident.
APPLY RISK CONTROL MEASURES	Each agency should consider and apply appropriate control measures to ensure any risk is as low as reasonably practicable. The 'ERICPD' mnemonic may help in agreeing a co-ordinated approach with a hierarchy of risk control measures: Eliminate, Reduce, Isolate, Control, Personal Protective Equipment, Discipline.
HAVE AN INTEGRATED MULTI-AGENCY OPERATIONAL RESPONSE PLAN	The outcomes of the hazard assessments and risk assessments should be considered when developing this plan, within the context of the agreed priorities for the incident. If the activity of one agency creates hazards for a partner agency, a solution must be implemented to reduce the risk to as low as reasonably practicable.
RECORD DECISIONS	The outcomes of the joint assessment of risk should be recorded, together with the jointly agreed priorities and the agreed multi-agency response plan, when resources permit. This may not be possible in the early stages of the incident, but post-incident scrutiny focuses on the earliest decision making.