Joint Doctrine: A Short Guide

The application of simple principles for joint working are particularly important in the early stages of an incident, when clear, robust decisions and actions need to be taken with minimum delay, often in a rapidly changing environment.

Refer to principles diagram

The co-location of responders should occur as soon as reasonably practicable.

If there is any delay in responders co-locating, interoperable communications should be used to begin establishing shared situational awareness.

People should start from a position of considering the risks and harm if they do not share information.

The declaration of a major incident must be shared with other organisations as soon as possible.

Refer to M/ETHANE diagram

Where lines of communication are established between control rooms, these should remain open until such time that a joint agreement is reached that they are no longer required.

Recording of decisions is critical and where possible should be undertaken by a trained loggist.

Refer to Joint Decision Model diagram

Failing to make a decision and consequently doing nothing is a risk and has potential life-threatening consequences.

Responder organisations should consider and not discount sources of local or specialist knowledge, as they may be able to provide information about the incident or the location.

A working strategy should set out what responders are trying to achieve.

A common understanding of relevant powers, policies and procedures is essential, to ensure that the activities of responder organisations complement rather than compromise each other.

Regulations are in place about the sharing of data; however, this should not prevent responders sharing relevant information in order to save lives and reduce harm.

It is essential that responder organisations have robust debrief procedures at a local level, which include ways to identify any interoperability lessons and raise them to the national level via JOL Online.