

# The Salvation Army

## United Kingdom with Republic of Ireland

### Emergency Response Newsletter No: 2



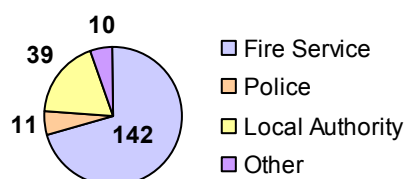
#### Salvation Army teams respond to 202 Emergency situations during 2007

The Salvation Army (TSA) responded to 202 different incidents throughout the UK during 2007. Apart from local arrangements that exist within some divisions to provide practical and emotional support to the Fire Service<sup>1</sup>, there were many other responses which included the response to the train derailment in the North-West, the earthquake at Folkestone, supporting the local Coastguard undertaking coastal search for missing persons, providing support to people evacuated from their homes following fires, terrorist incidents and the discovery of unexploded bombs; providing support where there has been localised flooding.

#### Emergency Responses by Division<sup>2</sup>

Anglia	17
Central North	72
Central South	1
East Midlands	4
East Scotland	0
Ireland	2
London – Pan London	52
London North East	2
London South East	2
North Scotland	1
North Western	9
Northern	1
South & Mid Wales	1
South Western	18
Southern	0
West Midlands	7
West Scotland	4
Yorkshire	9

#### Call out by organisation



During the months of June and July (2007) The Salvation Army responded to the severe, widespread flooding which impacted widely across the Yorkshire, West Midlands, East Midlands and Central South Divisions.

The excellent response was in spite of the very difficult conditions, including disrupted travel and the fact that many individuals and Salvation Army centres were also affected by the flooding. The flooding also coincided with the main holiday period when numerous corps members and officers were on holiday and there was the added dimension of officers who were between appointments. However, those who responded did so with compassion and commitment and displayed the very essence of serving suffering humanity in the name of Christ.

Numerous letters have been received acknowledging the excellent response that TSA made to both those who were responders and those who were affected by the floods.

Captain Tracy Palmer was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours List in acknowledgement of her services to flood relief in Worksop in Nottinghamshire during the summer.



Major Adrian Stringer (Community Services Officer, West Midlands Division) spoke with the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown when he visited Castlemead.

The work of The Salvation Army in Worksop was recognised with a visit from the Floods Recovery Minister, John Healey and local dignitaries, who thanked The Salvation Army for its quick response.



Captain Jenny Forman and Chris Carley are introduced to HRH, The Earl of Wessex when he visited residents and businesses that were severely affected by the flooding in Droitwich. Chris was among a team of volunteers who assisted local residents and stranded motorists over several days.

Salvation Army teams responded to the needs of the affected communities as well as providing support to emergency services personnel. In some areas, there were multiple responses.

1. The Fire Service threshold for calling upon SA support at major fires differs in each division. In London, the minimum number of pumps is eight, while in some other parts of the country it is four or six.
2. These figures are based on documents and information that has been reported back to the Territorial Emergency Services Officer at THQ.

The response included:

- providing support to emergency services personnel
- providing emotional, practical and pastoral support to those who were evacuated from their homes and sheltered at Rest Centres identified by the local authority
- opening our own premises to shelter those evacuated
- providing hot food to those who had no means of cooking within their own homes
- providing means for people to access essential medication for medical conditions while they were stranded
- providing laundry facilities
- providing transport assisting stranded motorists with shelter and hot food
- distributing clothing and sleeping bags

Canteen units were mobilized from West Midlands (Birmingham), Central North (Manchester) and Anglia (Stowmarket) Divisions to assist with the response in Yorkshire

**Filey:** Teams provided assistance at Rest Centres set up for residents who had been evacuated.

**Hull:** Teams provided practical and pastoral care to pensioners evacuated to the University of Hull and to those sheltering at the City Hall.

**Doncaster, Grimsby, and Worksop:** The local Salvation Army Centre was set up as a Rest Centre for those evacuated due to the flooding.

**Dinnington:** Assisted at the Rest Centre set up by the local authority.

**Catliffe and Toll Barr:** Mobile units provided refreshments to the residents affected by the flooding.

**Oxford:** Provided assistance at the Kassam Stadium which was set up as a Rest Centre.

**Maidenhead:** Teams visited affected areas and provided assistance to those affected by flooding.

**Brackley:** Provided assistance at the request of Northampton County Council to residents of the villages of Helmdon, Syresham and Wappenham at the Rest Centre.

**Worcester:** Teams assisted at the Rest Centre at Purdeswell Leisure Centre and assisted with the supply of bottled water to Malvern Fire Station.

**Droitwich:** Teams provided support at the Rest Centre set up to provide shelter for those who had been evacuated from their homes and those who had been evacuated from the M5 following flooding on the motorway.

**Evesham:** Teams assisted the local authority in providing support to those evacuated to a Rest Centre set up at the local Leisure Centre.

**Tewkesbury:** The Salvation Army Centre became a place of shelter for people who were unable to return to their homes. Hot food was distributed to those who were unable to cook food in their own homes and laundry facilities were made available to the local community.

**Upton on Severn:** Canteen unit was mobilised to provide practical support to emergency service personnel

**Walham and Castlemead:** Provided teams to staff the mobile canteen established to provide practical support to those involved in ensuring that the Walham and Castlemead electricity power stations were not flooded

**Shrivenham:** Staff from the Red Shield Centre provided assistance to motorists who had been stranded when the M4 flooded

## Training and Exercising

During 2007 visits were made by the Territorial Emergency Services Officers to Northern, West Midlands, South & Mid Wales, West Scotland, Central South, Central North, London Central and Yorkshire and early in 2008 to Ireland, South Western and London South East Divisions for the purposes of training and/or discussion regarding emergency response.



A number of Divisions have been involved in multi-agency live and table top exercises arranged by emergency and local authority responders, including one held at the O2 building in Greenwich which involved practising the decontamination of large numbers of people

## Emergency Service Courses

**SISTAD** (Salvation Army In-Service Training and Development) have arranged **Mass Fatality Awareness** Courses which were held in London (February) and Scotland (June). A further two courses are scheduled for 2008

An additional course '**Responding to Civil Emergencies**' will be held in Swanwick in November.

For further information see SISTAD brochure.

## New Emergency Response Unit

FedEx US, via Salvation Army World Services Organisation (SAWSO), has donated a mobile canteen unit to the UK Territory with the Republic of Ireland. This will be handed over on 4<sup>th</sup> April and will be used within London and based in Central South Division.

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