SDCC Rest Centre Activation Exercise- Presentation to MEM Webinar
22nd October 2021

Chris Galvin, SE
Stephen Byrne, EE
SDCC Administrative Area

Bounded by:
- Co. Wicklow
- Co. Kildare
- Dublin City
- Fingal
- Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown
MEM Eastern Region Membership

Comhairle Contae Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin County Council

MAJOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
EAST REGION

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council
Profile of County

- Covers an area of 223 KM Sq
- Population of approx. 280,000 - over 92,000 homes (census 2016)
- Over 6,800 businesses
- 85 industrial estates business parks containing approx. 2,200 firms
- Hospitals,
- A number of nursing homes
- Contains important transport corridors; N4, N7, N81, M50, Luas Red Line, East-West Railway
Rest Centre Overview


• 2017- SDCC’s MEP contained an extensive list of potential Rest Centre's consisting of Council owned community facilities, however, no formal vetting process had been implemented to assess suitability for purpose.

• Following discussions with the Eastern Region Rest Centre and Evacuation Subgroup and Dublin Civil Defence, the list of potential locations was narrowed down to 4 no. locations, the minimum criteria being the availability of 50+ car parking spaces and some form of large hall.

• Potential locations were selected to give a reasonable geographical spread across the county.
Rest Centre Locations Shortlist

- Lucan Leisure Centre
- Clondalkin Leisure Centre
- Tallaght Leisure Centre
- Ballyroan Community Centre
Rest Centre Overview

• Dublin Civil Defence carried out audits on the shortlisted locations in April 2018.

• Lucan Leisure Centre was deemed unsuitable due to the lack of a lift and other facilities such as a secure lock up area for displaced persons’ valuables, and a room to act as a First Aid station.

• It was decided that the remaining three locations were adequate in terms of the resources available to us in the event of a Rest Centre being activated.
Exercise Planning

2 no. Exercise Planning meetings took place, the first in July, the second in early September, with representatives from:

- SDCC Housing and Community Sections
- Dublin Civil Defence
- Dublin Fire Brigade
- Án Garda Síochána
- Health Service Executive
- Eastern Region Training & Exercise Subgroup
- Eastern Region Evacuation and Rest Centre Subgroup
Exercise Planning

- Scenario, Objectives, Exercise Location and Date agreed.
- Covid-19 protocols to be established and tested (DCD)
- New audit of Rest Centers proposed being cognizant of social distancing requirements and the above-mentioned protocols.
Exercise Scenario

• SDCC hosted a virtual LCG Tabletop exercise on 23rd March 2021 with all the PRA’s participating. The scenario was a large fire in an apartment building in Tallaght.

• An inject for this exercise was that 40 evacuees, including foreign nationals, were identified and a Rest Centre Activation was required. Tallaght Leisure Centre was selected for its proximity to the event.

• It was a logical step to carry this scenario forward into the Rest Centre Activation exercise.
Exercise Scenario
Tallaght Leisure Centre
Exercise Objectives

- Testing the mobilisation procedures across all agencies.
- Exploring the LA roles and responsibilities during the Rest Centre activation and beyond.
- Inter-Agency Cooperation on Rest Centre operations.
- Updating our Rest Centre Plan with any learning outcomes
- Testing the Communications element
Resources Deployed

- DCD had a total of 67 people on the night
- 36 were displaced persons [6 of which were children].
- 2 x Rest centre trucks.
- 2 x Mini buses.
- 4 x jeeps.
- 1 x Sprinter van.
- 1 x jeep and mobile catering unit [Kildare CD].
- 2 x Gardai representatives.
- 2 x HSE representatives.
- 2x DFB representatives.
- 4 no. staff from SDCC Housing and Community Sections.
Kildare Civil Defence Catering Unit

DCD Vehicles with Rest Centre Supplies
Volunteers assembling at County Hall
C-19 Compliance

C-19 Isolation Tent
Registration 1

Registration 2
Temporary Bedding
Family Unit Tent Setup
Interagency Cooperation
Exercise Feedback

From participant and observer feedback received, the primary objectives were broadly achieved.

- **Testing the mobilisation procedures as described in the Rest Centre Guidance document.**

Calls were distributed from DFB MOBI to all the relevant agencies in a timely fashion.
Exercise Feedback

- Explore the LA roles and responsibilities during the Rest Centre activation and beyond.

Primary SDCC staff are now familiar with their potential roles and responsibilities in the event of a Rest Centre Activation.

- Inter-Agency Cooperation on Rest Centre operations.

All agencies involved demonstrated cooperation. SDCC staff worked well with DCD at registration stage. Translation provision from AGS identified, HSE on hand for medical issues outside of DCD first aid capabilities.
Exercise Feedback

• Testing the communications element.

Social Media messages advising the public of the exercise went out across Twitter and Facebook platforms.

The @CivilDefenceIRL and other agencies are with us in Tallaght tonight for a rest centre exercise. This is where we simulate a major emergency so as to increase our training and preparedness for any real-life event that may occur.
Recommendations

• Currently completing the Exercise report – Debrief meeting held with all parties.

• If a Rest Centre activation is being considered, a standby message could be issued to Civil Defence. It would be approx 30-minute response from on standby at the CD HQ, could be hours from a cold call at home.

• Collect Tetra Radio ISSI numbers from PRA’s at sign in to facilitate communications.

• Investigate SDCC out of hours call escalation points. Current arrangements rely heavily on DCD being available 24/7.

• Registration forms – languages, layout.

• Other issues raised
Thank You

Any Questions?