Objectives

The main aim of the project is to develop a framework for choosing an effective recovery strategy and a compendium of management options soundly based on science, taking into account acceptable, practicable and achievable practices through the involvement of various stakeholders.

Contacts

The project is underway and the team would appreciate the opportunity to discuss the project with specialists who can offer their expertise or who can provide research and readily available information which could be incorporated into this important guidance.

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References

(1) HM Government (2005) Emergency response and recovery: Non-statutory guidance accompanying the civil contingencies act 2004. Version 2.
(2) Pitt Review (2008) Learning lessons from the 2007 floods.

Further Information

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Health Protection Agency

UK Recovery Handbook for Chemical Incidents

Background

Major chemical incidents have occurred in developed and developing countries, occurring both accidentally and deliberately. Although rare, they have caused many casualties, fatalities and mass disruption resulting in long-lasting effects on the communities involved. The scientific knowledge surrounding the response to the acute phase of such emergencies is extensive.

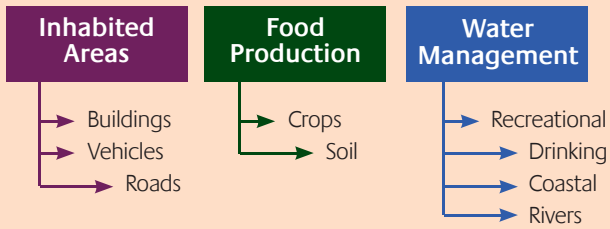
However, the same cannot be said for the recovery phase. This knowledge gap has been of concern and issues surrounding 'how clean is clean' have been identified as complex and difficult to address.

The Project Team is following a life-cycle approach of a select list of chemicals which in the past have been of concern. This approach, already substantiated by the UK Recovery Handbook for Radiation Incidents, which was well received on both a national and European platform, will be used to develop a structured decision-aiding process.

Project Description

The Health Protection Agency, in collaboration with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Food Standards Agency, Home Office, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Scottish Government is developing a UK Recovery Handbook for Chemical Incidents which will be released in May 2012. On completion, the product is intended to provide a user-friendly online reference handbook, which will aid relevant stakeholders involved in the recovery phase of a chemical incident.

Handbook Structure

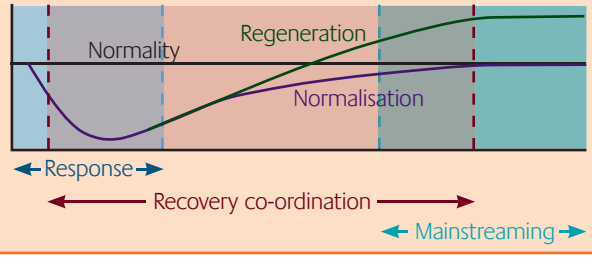


The Recovery Phase

Recovery is defined as *'the process of rebuilding, restoring and rehabilitating the community following an emergency, but it is more than simply the replacement of what has been destroyed and the rehabilitation of those affected'* [1].

Planning for the recovery phase should begin as early as possible following an incident, running in tandem with the response to the emergency. Recovery continues until disruption has been rectified, normal services have been restored and the needs of those directly and indirectly affected have been met. The response phase is usually relatively short but the recovery phase may go on for months, years and even decades [1].

Depiction of Different Phases of an Incident [2]



Inhabited Areas

Food Production

Water Management