



National
Operational
Guidance

Control measure

Plan reception centres



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Developed and maintained by the NFCC



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Control measure knowledge

Depending on the scale and nature of the incident, suitable locations and logistics for the safe reception of large numbers of people may need to be identified and arranged. Reception centres in the form of survivor reception centres, emergency rest centres and humanitarian assistance centres are designed to cater for the needs of all casualties and other victims.

Experience has shown that in the immediate aftermath of an incident many people will travel to the scene or to meeting points, such as travel terminals, if they believe their family or friends may have been involved in an emergency. Friends and relatives who may be feeling intense anxiety, shock or grief, need a sympathetic and understanding approach. Appropriate and effective liaison and control must be in place to ensure that information is accurate, consistent and non-contradictory.

Local authorities work with statutory and specialist agencies and the voluntary sector who can provide additional specialist assistance at a large scale incident or one which requires additional logistical and public support. Such agencies include:

- Voluntary Sector Civil Protection Forum
- Red Cross — emergency response
- Disaster Action
- Salvation Army Trust
- Samaritans
- St. John Ambulance / St. Andrews Ambulance (Scotland)
- Royal Voluntary Service — formerly Women's Royal Voluntary Service

For further information, see: [Emergency Response and Recovery Non statutory guidance accompanying the Civil Contingencies Act 2004](#)

Strategic actions

Fire and rescue services should:

- Make appropriate arrangements with local authorities and partner agencies for pre-planned public reception centres as part of the community risk assessment
- Develop local guidance and appropriate arrangements on the available support services for people affected by emergency incidents



- Ensure that incident commanders have an understanding of the processes and arrangements for local emergency public support services

Tactical actions

Incident commanders should:

- Carry out early liaison with partner agencies on the establishment of reception centres
- Instigate local arrangements for emergency public support services
- Consider welfare arrangements for people evacuated from the incident