

Migrant Incidents Phases of Response

Including roles within the Joint Control Room
and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre

MRCC Commander
17th August 2021

Name

Phases 1 & 2 – Information Gathering and Tracking

1. Information gathering is normally achieved via the reports from Op EOS flights (or similar) and access to the French Migrant Tracker.
2. The tracking of migrant vessels can be achieved by using positions derived from the French Migrant Tracker and then plotting positions and establishing headings and speeds, observations on C-Scope (AIS) of French Warships or Coastguard vessels in contact with migrant vessels, C-Scope radar targets, Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) sorties and reports from commercial and/or private vessels transiting the Dover Straits.



The analysis of flight reports, migrant tracker information and tracking of vessels is conducted cooperatively between the JCR liaison officers and MRCC personnel.

Phase 3 – Search & Rescue and Recovery

3. This stage can be accomplished by the identification of appropriate assets and their tasking and coordination to migrant vessels. Both Border Force Units (BFU) and SAR declared (RNLI & SAR(H) etc.) assets, plus any additional facilities are normally deployed to those vessels identified within Phase 2.



3

As with other SAR incidents, in this phase, the MRCC will task appropriate assets to vessels in distress to carry out search and/or rescue/recovery activities as necessary.

The JCR liaison officers monitor and assist this phase as necessary.

Phase 4 – 999 Emergency Calls and Beach Landings

4. This Phase normally occurs once migrant vessels are aware that they are in UK waters and are able to make mobile phone contact with multiple emergency services (often from the same vessel), to request immediate assistance due to 'their vessel sinking,' 'critically ill individuals on-board,' 'loss of engine in the shipping lanes,' etc.

This 999 activity can frequently occur alongside the controlled and uncontrolled beach landing of migrant vessels that have been undetected up to this point.



4

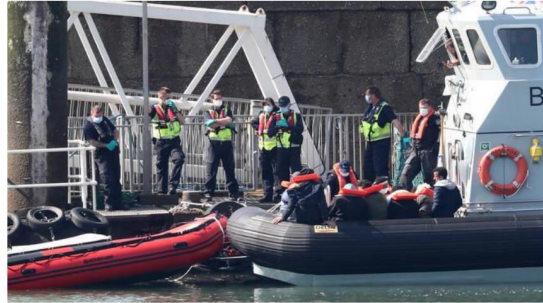
As with phase 3, once the MRCC is able to fix the position of the casualty, appropriate assets will be tasked. Beach landings are to be met with law enforcement personnel in a similar way to RNLI vessels returning to their home station.

The JCR liaison officers monitor and assist this phase as necessary.

Phase 5 – Review & Completion

5. The Review and Completion Phase can commence at any time after Phase 3 and often runs alongside SAR/Recovery events. The comparison and interrogation of all (French, HMCG, Border Force and Immigration Enforcement) Migrant Trackers alongside VISION logs and with the active participation of all those involved in the tasking, coordination, information gathering and rescue processes is essential .

Note: Any delays or ineffective actions during the earlier phases of response will to larger negative impacts during the latter stages.



Once rescue and recovery operations are underway, the comparison and interrogation phase can commence and incidents can begin to be closed as they are brought to a successful conclusion. This phase can be quite extensive and time-consuming depending upon the number of potential duplicate incidents and the actual amount of vessels that have been dealt with.

Questions?

