

Crisis Command

Set up:

- ★ Laptop & projector
 - ★ Tables - one for each Patrol and one for the command centre (CC)
 - ★ Sign above CC saying 'Command Centre'
 - ★ Room should be dark, just red of projection and angle poise lamps on each table, maybe a flashing red/yellow light!
 - ★ Young Leaders as command centre and Leaders as runners (Leaders can then advise both Patrols and YLs)
 - ★ Plenty of coloured slips of paper to communicate between Patrols & CC – diff colour for each Patrol
 - ★ Pens for Patrols & CC
 - ★ Information slips need to be ready
 - ★ Maps for each table and hand-out reminding what is required for police summary
 - ★ YLs and Leaders need briefing before hand
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Maps are inherently designed to be used on the move and this exciting 999 activity incorporates some of the map skills necessary for dealing with an emergency situation involving moving vehicles. Scouts are asked to take on the roles of police officers in a control room who must act upon the information they receive from the scene of the accident.

This exercise will help Scouts to:

- use six-figure grid references;
- devise and follow routes;
- identify map features; and
- use a map to inform decision-making.

Leaders' overview

The accident is located on the northbound carriageway of the M100 under the railway bridge (map ref. 171 856) The accident involves a petrol tanker, a bread van, an articulated lorry and a small family car. The northbound carriageway is completely blocked and the family car is hidden from view. The car, a red Ford Fiesta reg. J15 SST is driven by Denise Sweetly, with her two-year-old daughter on board. They are found alive and well having been saved by their seat belts.

The accident was caused by a speeding motorist in a large family car, which was forced to brake to avoid a stray deer on the carriageway. This vehicle will not be involved in the accident and will leave the scene. The owner has been shown to be female but the description of the driver given by witnesses is that it is male, in this case the owner's husband, Gordon Slipper.

Immediately after it becomes clear to the students that an accident has taken place under a railway bridge on a very busy stretch of road, they will need to consider closing the northbound carriageway and how the public might be informed; for example, via traffic bulletins.

Given the danger posed by the petrol tanker, the railway company needs to be informed and trains stopped from using the line over the bridge. The southbound carriageway will also need to be closed because the distraction on the northbound carriageway has resulted in a number of minor accidents and because the close proximity of the petrol tanker presents a fire hazard.

Once first two slides have been displayed read out the following:

“During the exercise you are isolated from the outside world. Information will come to you on the screen and on pieces of paper only. You can only communicate with the outside world by sending information on a piece of paper to the Control Centre which will pass on your request or orders to anyone you choose from the Fire Service to the media to the Prime Minister. They will pass responses from these people back to you.

You cannot approach the Control Centre, Leaders will act as runners taking your piece of paper to them. Paper from each team is colour coded, general information for all teams will be on white paper.

You need to make notes during the exercise, especially about information which comes on the screen as it won't be there for long. Remember you need to fill in the police incident report at the end of the exercise.

Leaders will answer your questions on how the exercise works but cannot give responses to any other questions.”

Report 1

Time 09.30 am

Telephone call received from Mrs Davina Jumblehook 'There has been a bad accident on the Great Scots Road under a bridge involving two lorries.' She is not local and can give no better description than that. She is currently travelling from Scotland to London.

Report 3

Time 09.45 am

Telephone call received from a Mr David Sweetly, 2 Robin Lane, Highbury. *'My wife Denise and two year old daughter went shopping early this morning at in Huntingbridge just south of Middle Afton. She is now 20 minutes late. I have tried ringing on her mobile phone, but it just rings and no one answers. This is unusual as she always has it with her and she is always on time'*.

Report 6

Time 10.00 am

Tom Smith, a tractor driver is calling from the telephone box in Lowbury. He was ploughing on the East Side of the M100 near the Railway Bridge. He witnessed the accident. He says it was caused by a blue 4-door family saloon car. He did not see all the registration number, but he believes the numbers were 334. This vehicle braked really hard to avoid a small animal on the road. The vehicles travelling behind braked hard to avoid this blue car. Unfortunately the petrol tanker lost control and the other lorries crashed into it, under the bridge. Mr Smith will be available at 18.00 for a statement to be taken tonight.

Report 8

Time 10.25 am

David Sweetly has called again. He is very worried about his wife and daughter. He knows there is an accident on the M100. His wife is now over an hour late and she is still not answering her mobile phone.

Report 9

Time 10.55 am

Jason Catamole has rung in from work in Huntingbridge. He was travelling south on the M100, about 9.30. As he approached the Railway Bridge he saw a Vauxhall Vectra swerving all over the road. He wished to make a complaint of dangerous driving, as he feels the driver could have caused an accident. He thinks the registration number was something like S—MLN. The driver was a male aged about 30 years old, with short dark hair. He will be at home after 19.00 to give a statement.

Report 14

Time 11.30 am

Telephone call received from a Mr Gordon Slipper of Boroughbury. He believes he may have caused a problem on the M100 today and would like to speak to a police officer about it.

Police Accident Summary

Brief description of what happened and where

Vehicles involved

How was the accident caused and by whom

What action did the police take

Accident victims and the state of their injuries

Who will be charged with any driving offence
