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UK National Emergency Alerting Scheme

How might this apply to tall buildings?

Dr Nigel P Brown

6th International Tall Building Fire Safety Conference

Location: Excel Conference Centre London

Date: 18th - 20th June 2019

What's in store …

‣ **Credentials**

‣ **UK National Emergency Alerting Scheme – what's this?**

‣ **Why is Cabinet Office involved?**

‣ **Clear objectives for a scheme**

‣ **What might a scheme look like?**

‣ **Some of the challenges posed by a scheme**

‣ **How might it work in a tall building emergency?**

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What's in store ...

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➤ Why is Cabinet Office involved?

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➤ What might a scheme look like?

➤ Some of the challenges posed by a scheme

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Why is Cabinet Office involved?

➤ Underpinning legislation – **Civil Contingencies Act (2004)**

➤ Policy support provided by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in Cabinet Office

➤ The Act places a **Duty of Care** on responders predominantly, but not exclusively, the Emergency Services

➤ **Lead** is currently with **Cabinet Office**

➤ Right now: exploratory phase

➤ Many stakeholders within Government

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*"... to maintain arrangements to **warn** the public, and to provide **information** and **advice** to the public, if an **emergency** is likely to occur or has occurred."*

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Objectives *are to* **reduce harm** *to citizens – save lives – and* **mitigate damage** *to property*

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What might a scheme look like?

➤ To work on **mobile devices**

- that are not necessarily of the latest technology

➤ **Messages to reach as many citizens as possible**

➤ **National coverage**

➤ **Should not involve recipients having to take any action to receive the message**

- such as installing an 'App' onto their smartphone
- 'opt-out' scheme

➤ Implication is that **messages would be 'pushed'** a personal device

➤ Be focussed on **emergencies** arising from **generic hazards**

- closely resembles 'reverse-999 / 112' functionality

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Some of the challenges posed by a scheme

➤ **Integrated** into existing response arrangements

➤ Messages sent **timely** manner and sent to people in the **most appropriate locations**

➤ Messages considered as part of a **communication 'campaign'**

➤ **Content corroboration** - integrated with other sources of information

➤ **Trust** – small word with **BIG implications**

➤ **Speed -** incident identification > assessment > escalation potential > originating message content > device delivery

➤ **Role for social media?**
- very specific location specificity
- trust

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This is not the case of technology looking for a use

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Any scheme will be taken forward by operational requirements

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How might it work in a tall building emergency?

➤ **Used to augment building-specific ('opt-in') schemes operated by building management**

➤ **Capabilities are incorporated into the nG** (n >= 4) **mobile standards** that can be used

  • to 'broadcast' messages to all connected devices and

  • to specific devices

➤ **Too early to speculate as to which technology might be deployed**

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A scheme is not going to happen quickly … if at all

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continue the conversation ...

nigel.brown@cabinet-office.x.gsi.gov.uk
+44 (0)7909 536 516

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