

AGENDA ITEM:

REPORT TO:	MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY MEETING
DATE:	18TH MARCH 2010
REPORT NO.	CFO/039/10
REPORTING OFFICER:	ASSISTANT CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
CONTACT OFFICER:	AREA MANAGER STEPHENS, EXT 4315
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	STATION MANAGER HITCHEN
SUBJECT:	EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY 'EXERCISE MANTA'

THERE ARE NO APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members of 'Exercise Manta' which is a tactical exercise to be held on the River Mersey to celebrate European Maritime Day 2010.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the contents of this report.

Introduction & Background

3. The European Maritime Day was established jointly by the European Council, European Parliament and European Commission in 2008 as part of the Integrated Maritime Policy for the EU. Its aim is "to increase awareness and visibility of the importance of the oceans, of a vibrant maritime economy and of the rich European Maritime Heritage".
4. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has applied to register an event entitled 'Exercise Manta' with the EU organisers in support of European Maritime Day.
5. Exercise Manta is scheduled to take place on the 20th May 2010 at the Liverpool Cruise Liner Terminal, Pier Head. The Cruise Liner Terminal management has agreed to the use of the site for the duration of the exercise.

6. The event will both demonstrate and test the extensive arrangements that the Authority has put in place to deal with a fire aboard a vessel in coastal waters and introduce measures that improve water safety for at risk groups. 'Exercise Manta' will simulate a fire onboard a Mersey ferry (Mersey Travel have agreed to allow the use of a ferry for the purposes of the exercise). A Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service reconnaissance team will board the ferry via the Marine Rescue Team 10m jet boat to make an assessment of the situation. A casualty evacuation from the ferry will take place utilising the jet boat and a slide raft. A further medical evacuation via RAF Sea King Helicopter will take place during the exercise. A cooling attack utilising 2 firefighting tugs provided by Svitzer will take place followed by a firefighting team boarding the vessel to extinguish the fire.
7. It is planned to use the event to launch the role of Inland Community Water Safety officer (IRMP 08.1.12).

Equality & Diversity Implications

8. None contained within this report.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

9. None contained within this report.

Health & Safety and Environmental Implications

10. A full risk assessment will be undertaken by the Health & Safety department to determine any implications of this exercise.

Contribution to Achieving the Vision:

"To Make Merseyside a Safer, Stronger, Healthier Community"

11. Exercise Manta will allow a real time test of Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service procedures for dealing with a fire aboard a vessel in coastal waters. The event will also provide an excellent opportunity to launch a community water safety strategy aim at groups identified as being at risk of drowning.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None