

Disposal of Out-of-Date Flares (January 2010)

The situation where local Coastguard teams could take our TEPs (Time-Expired Pyrotechnics) is long gone and since then the waters have been more muddied.

However, the MCA has now issued a formal statement which sets out how one can get rid of them, albeit possibly with a substantial car journey involved.

This is their statement issued on 21st Dec 2009:

The MCA, with the assistance of the Department for Transport, will continue to accept TEPs from the public; however the collection and disposal service will no longer be undertaken by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) with effect from the 31 March 2010 because of their operational pressures.

The Maritime & Coastguard Agency has awarded a new contract to undertake the collection and disposal of Time Expired Pyrotechnics (TEPs) from its premises. The new contracted service will be phased in from December 2009 with Ramora UK Ltd of Portsmouth. (www.ramorauk.com)

Following recent changes of legislation with regard to the storage and transportation of explosives, MCA premises now require to be brought into line with those changes. This will mean that the number of sites which will be able to accept TEPs will be significantly reduced.

The Agency plan to achieve this by concentrating available resources on 18 sites evenly spaced across the country. Analysis of the quantities of TEPs deposited with the MCA indicate that up to 70% of items find their way to the vicinity of the 18 proposed sites which will accept TEPs.

The following sites have therefore been identified:

Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centres at

- Shetland*
- Stornoway*
- Belfast*
- Liverpool*
- Holyhead*
- Milford*
- Falmouth*
- Brixham*
- Solent*
- Dover*
- Thames*
- Humber*
- Forth*
- Inverness Sector Base*
- North Norfolk Sector Base*
- Cruden Bay Coastguard Rescue Office*
- Girvan Coastguard Rescue Office and*
- A location at Poole*

.....continued -

*Douglas MacDonald, Head of Environment & Emergency Response Standards said:
"These 18 locations, spaced evenly across the country have been chosen because we believe that they will meet the majority of the public demand and are reasonably accessible. Unfortunately not all sites are manned 24 hours, but full details of locations, contact details and opening times will be posted on our web site www.mcga.gov.uk as the new service is rolled out. We are also asking the public not to take TEPS to police stations as they have no storage facilities for these items."*

For our purposes on the East Coast, the locations are Thames CG (based at Walton, the phone number is on page 1 of ECP) and North Norfolk Sector base, which is at Wells and the number there is 01328 710219.

Despite the final MCA comment above, it does seem that some police stations will happily take TEPs, so it may still be worth asking locally.

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