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## The Principles

### 4.1 Principles for joint working

The principles for joint working should be used during all phases of an incident, whether spontaneous or pre-planned and regardless of scale. They support the development of a multi-agency response and provide structure during the response to all incidents. The principles can also be applied during the recovery phase.

The principles illustrated in the diagram below are presented in an indicative sequence, although they can be applied in a different order if necessary.

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**The application of simple principles for joint working are particularly important in the early stages of an incident, when clear, robust decisions and actions need to be taken with minimum delay, often in a rapidly changing environment.**

#### CO-LOCATE

Co-locate with other responders as soon as practicably possible at a single, safe and easily identified location.

#### COMMUNICATE

Communicate using language which is clear, and free from technical jargon and abbreviations.

#### CO-ORDINATE

Co-ordinate by agreeing the lead organisation. Identify priorities, resources, capabilities and limitations for an effective response, including the timing of further meetings.

#### JOINTLY UNDERSTAND RISK

Jointly understand risk by sharing information about the likelihood and potential impact of threats and hazards, to agree appropriate control measures.

#### SHARED SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Establish shared situational awareness by using M/ETHANE and the Joint Decision Model.