

WIND FARM CRISIS MANAGEMENT

ASSET MANAGERS DEMONSTRATE THEIR EXPERTISE

Catastrophic events are a very rare occurrence on a wind farm: but if the worst happens it is reassuring to know that your asset management company is more than capable of handling the situation.

We demonstrated our expertise in crisis management when a fire broke out in one of the turbines on a site in our care. The five-turbine wind farm is situated on right-to-roam moorland in the north of England and had been developed, owned and operated by other parties prior to RES being appointed by the current owners.

The alarm was raised in the early hours of the morning and RES' Control Centre, which is manned 24/7, responded immediately. A pre-agreed escalation procedure meant the Centre knew exactly who to call and in what order; ensuring that the local emergency services arrived immediately and RES personnel and turbine specialists were on site within hours.

Other stakeholders - such as the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Environment Agency and Local Authority - were also informed of the incident and the action that RES was taking.

“I thank you for your prompt action and for your continued efforts to maintain public safety.”

Local Authority Building Control Officer



“We run mock emergency events at regular intervals to test our ability to respond in a crisis. We also encourage the emergency services to visit the sites we manage so that they can familiarise themselves with the layout.”

Darren Cook, Head of RES Asset Management

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS INCLUDED:

- » Isolation of all turbines on the site until the cause could be established
- » Establishment of an exclusion zone around the damaged turbine to protect the public
- » Ensuring on-site security personnel were available 24/7 to maintain the cordon
- » Adjusting on-site CCTV so it was possible to view the damaged apparatus
- » Handling enquiries from the local media and general public

In this instance, the local fire brigade had visited site just one week prior to the fire and were able to deploy themselves with speed and confidence to bring the incident under control.



MAXIMISING PRODUCTION

RES worked with stakeholders and suppliers to bring the site back on line as quickly as possible; minimising downtime and lost revenue for the owners. Our in-house experts in planning, grid and turbine engineering were able to add value by reviewing proposals and using their experience to optimise the reinstatement programme.

The four unaffected turbines were brought back on line two weeks after the incident and gradually ramped up to full operation. Meantime RES worked with the turbine manufacturer to agree a schedule for dismantling and replacing the damaged turbine. The replacement programme was completed some six months later and the site returned to full operation soon afterwards.

RES' proactive approach during this crisis has strengthened relationships with key stakeholders. In fact, the local authority has drawn on our expertise to develop its own emergency response plan for handling wind farm incidents.



A POSITIVE OUTCOME

- » Unaffected turbines down for only two weeks
- » Client's reputation as a responsible wind farm owner protected
- » Strengthened local stakeholder relationships
- » Lengthy HSE investigation or full site closure avoided
- » No one hurt, nor property damaged - beyond the turbine involved

ABOUT US

RES (Renewable Energy Systems) has developed and/or built over 12 GW of renewable energy capacity worldwide and has an asset management portfolio exceeding 2 GW. RES is active in a range of energy technologies including onshore and offshore wind, solar, energy storage and transmission.