# TABLETOP EXERCISE – Smoke Plume

## Summary

This tabletop exercise aims to test your shelter procedures. Although this is a tabletop exercise it could be adapted into a live exercise of your shelter/Lockdown drill.

This exercise is designed to last approximately one hour.

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| **Approximate timings** | **Activity** |
| 5 minutes | Introduction to exercise |
| 5 minutes | Inject 1 |
| 15 minutes | Group discussion |
| 5 minutes | Inject 2 |
| 15 minutes | Group discussion |
| 15 minutes | Debrief |

## Inject 1

Scenario time

Thursday, 12.30pm.

News bulletin

“There have been reports of a large fire at an industrial estate, with large plumes of thick black smoke. Residents living up to five miles away are said to have heard a large explosion shortly before the flames were sighted. Fire & rescue crews are attempting to control the fire at present but have called for back-up pumps from other services. There are unconfirmed reports of a fatality amongst workers on the industrial estate. We’ll have more as we get it.”

Information

During lunchtime, pupils and staff heard a large explosion from an industrial estate half a mile away. Some of the younger pupils are frightened and one is particularly distressed. Older pupils are more inquisitive and wish to know what is happening.

A thick smoke plume has begun to travel towards the education setting.

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| * Which organisations should you contact for advice and support? * What arrangements are needed for pupils distressed by the incident? * Are any other actions required? |

## Inject 2

Scenario time

Thursday, 1.15pm.

News bulletin

“Fire & rescue crews have managed to contain a large fire at an industrial estate but there are still toxic fumes rising from the fire. Local residents are advised to go in, keeping their windows closed. Stay in and please tune in to your local radio station for further information. Pupils and staff at a nearby education setting are being asked to remain indoors.”

Information

The smoke plume is passing almost directly over the education setting. Having seen the smoke, many of the younger pupils are becoming increasingly agitated.

Although the fire has been contained the smoke plume will persist for a considerable length of time. South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service are confident the wind direction will change in the next couple of hours and that pupils will be able to return home by 6pm. Until this time, they have instructed pupils and staff to shelter inside the education setting.

Despite the noxious clouds of smoke many parents / care givers have arrived at the education setting to ask if they can take their children home.

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| * What information should be provided to pupils and parents / care givers?   + Should parents / care givers be allowed to take their children home? * How can pupils be reassured and made to feel safe?   + Would it be appropriate for a member of the Fire & Rescue Service to visit the education setting to provide reassurance? * Are any additional welfare arrangements needed for pupils and staff (e.g. those with medical needs)? * Are any other actions required? |