21 January 2026

EVENT SUMMARY

Preparing JESIP for the Future

The Role of AI and Technology

The third JESIP Research Symposium was held on 21st January 2026 in Manchester. It brought together 70 academics, practitioners, technologists and policymakers on the theme of "Preparing JESIP for the Future - The Role of AI and Technology". Through a series of talks and interactive tasks, the symposium explored how AI and emerging technologies might strengthen and/or create novel challenges for multi-agency emergency interoperability. Specifically, we considered two key questions:

1. **How can AI be developed to support emergency team interoperability?**
2. **What challenges might arise from the use of AI technology in emergency teams?**

Talks

The day began with an opening address from Matthew England (National Strategic JESIP Manager) and Dr Olivia Brown (Associate Profession in Digital Futures, University of Bath), introducing key terms and concepts related to AI in the emergency response sphere. This was followed by a series of talks to highlight how AI was currently being used across the police, fire, and ambulance sectors. Dr Frank Long (NFCC AI Strategic Lead) spoke about governing, assuring and scaling AI across the UK fire sector, David Davis (Chief Clinical Information Officer, London Ambulance Service) presented innovative ways AI has been used to work with pre-hospital data, and T/Superintendent Lewis Lincoln-Gordon discussed lessons learned around delivering AI in policing effectively. The afternoon talks provided a deeper focus on examples of AI use, with Nick Dale and Jude Daniels-Smith from CGI demonstrating their "ChatEBP" (evidence-based policing) tool, and Lianna Roast (Head of Thought Leadership, UK Resilience Academy) critically reflecting on the use of AI for lessons management.

Discussion

As in previous symposia, we dedicated time to facilitating interactive discussions, where mixed tables of delegates reflected on the day's talks alongside their lived experiences and expertise to consider how AI could be usefully and safely designed or leveraged to support emergency team interoperability. The key themes from these conversations have been grouped into three sections: (i) opportunities for AI to support interoperability; (ii) obvious and hidden risks of AI; and (iii) core requirements for designing an AI interoperability system.

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1. Opportunities for AI to support interoperability

- **Streamlining information flow and enhancing shared situational awareness**

AI can support multi-agency teamwork by acting as a translation tool between different agencies to increase speed of information sharing, enhance understanding and build real-time shared situational awareness across different command levels and emergency groups.

- **Structuring interoperability**

AI could be used to support better adherence to interoperability protocols, such as creating M/ETHANE messages from telephone call transcripts, adding information to a live JDM, or providing checklists and prompts to support compliance with JESIP principles.

- **Lessons management**

By analysing logs and debriefs during emergencies or working through inquest and inquiry outputs, AI could help to identify the core lessons to be learnt within and across emergencies and develop innovative solutions to tailor learning to support interoperability.

- **Training and scenario realism**

AI could enhance creation of more creative and realistic training, testing and exercising scenarios based upon the lessons learnt from past incidents and emergencies.

2. Obvious and hidden risks of AI

- **Deskilling the workforce and overreliance on AI**

Key skills related to critical thinking, decision-making, and dynamic risk assessment might be lost if responders become too reliant on AI. They might also trust AI too much and not engage in challenge.

- **AI adoption hesitancy**

There will be a mixed reception to the use of AI with some people and workforce cultures resistant to use it. Delegates spoke of concern that organisations were jumping on the "AI bandwagon" when there was plenty of existing and less risky technology that is not being sufficiently utilised. Relatedly, there was uncertainty over what data can be shared in such a system with regards to data security.

- **Legal, ethical and security risks**

Discussion covered aspects such as: Who is responsible for AI going wrong? How can we assure its use? Where does responsibility for decision-making lie? How can we protect security sensitive information?

> **It is essential that AI is designed to augment rather than replace human decision-making.**

- **Data quality issues and algorithms**

Identifying the right kind of information to help build AI systems and generate accurate results is challenging. Data quality is essential to ensure high quality outputs. For example, limiting AI access to internal data only to reduce the risk of "hallucination" and boost the reliability of outputs.

- **Contextual limitations in emergencies**

All technology can be hindered from use at incidents and emergencies by poor signal, severe weather conditions etc, and AI is no exception to this, meaning context might limit use.

3. Core requirements for designing an AI system for interoperability

- **Human-in-the-loop**

It is essential that AI is designed to augment rather than replace human decision-making. Humans can interact and use AI to support them in decision-making, but the expertise and skills, as well as the final decision, reside with the human decision-maker.

- **Beware of AI for AI's sake – public safety focused and goal oriented**

AI's use in emergencies must be centrally focused on public and practitioner safety – not efficiency or cost saving. AI should be designed to solve discrete problems, rather than seen as a silver bullet to fix all interoperability challenges. AI moves quickly, so measured rollouts would help to ensure unanticipated challenges were identified and dealt with incrementally.

- **High quality training to use AI safely and responsibly**

Responders need high quality training on how to use AI safely and responsibly to ensure risks identified above are mitigated against. Humans must be cognisant of the risk of error in AI systems, using human expertise to closely monitor, evaluate and correct AI recommendations.

Conclusion

The recommendations in this report can support the development of future AI systems to support interoperability. There was enthusiasm for AI throughout the day and clear potential to transform emergency responding, but this was tempered by practical concerns about the risks and limitations of its application in the real-world life-or-death arena of emergencies. Taken together, a future AI system must remain centred around humanity, ensuring it supports rather than replaces human behaviour and, crucially, designed to optimise lifesaving goals.

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