



- + Freedom from retribution for bottom up reporting
- + All Risk Managers must appreciate that communication is “absolutely crucial”
- + Risk Managers must be good communicators
- + Risk Champions should be Risk and Communication Champions
- + Risk v Uncertainty – Uncertainty is better, but risk is an easier term to communicate
- + Lateral communication in an organisation is often overlooked
- + Organisational charts are important – they must show communication at **all** levels
- + Risk Manager should be clearly shown as communicating with all
- + Organisations must have a formal communication strategy
- + The communication strategy must extend beyond the organisation – e.g. partners

If any of you do not have access to both these **Strategic RISK** articles, please let me know, or better still find out about this excellent magazine direct at [www.strategicrisk.co.uk](http://www.strategicrisk.co.uk)

#### **Editorial historic note**

The article included a brief reference to attempts by the insurance broking industry to improve communication within client organisations as long ago as the late 1960s. Members may be interested to know that this was an attempt to deal with the problems of non reporting of incidents that subsequently lead to difficulties in getting claims paid by insurers (nothing has changed I hear some of you say!). Subsequently, trading conditions became harsher for commercial brokers during the early 70s and broker driven RM as an “add-on” consequently went into the doldrums for a time. This was concurrent with leading commercial organisations and the larger local authorities extending the duties of their in-house insurance managers/officers to RM, eventually leading to the situation as we know it today.

#### **2 of 2 - A message from our Chairman**

The SIG has been going now for almost two years. Early in 2008 we shall be meeting once again to transact formal business but also, I’m sure, to find time to discuss interesting aspects of the subject that brings us together as members of one of the Institute’s largest SIGs. Details of the date and venue for this annual business meeting will be circulated well in advance.

Unfortunately most of you, I know, don’t find it easy to take time off for meetings, which inevitably entail long journeys. We therefore have to decide soon whether we should continue as we are, relying heavily on the Newsletter and shelving plans for meetings, or adopt a different model. Please let us have YOUR ideas.

Fortunately, thanks to the many contributors and the tireless efforts of our editor, the SIG Newsletter is a success, keeping members in touch and alerting us to topics and news of considerable interest. Bruce Widdowson, who has stated that he is willing to stand down as SIG secretary (see following statement), has expressed a willingness to offer himself for re-election as editor for another year.

Michael Ocock

### *Editorial comment*

The initiative for the founding of our SIG started in the Summer of 2005, when I put a proposal to the **irm** that following the "Communication" concept being replaced by "Context" within the then examination syllabus, *communication* should be dealt with within a special interest group. This dove-tailed with similar views held within the **irm** at the time, about "people" risks in general and the SIG was launched to start operating from the beginning of 2006, being launched with an inaugural meeting at Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Headquarters.

One point agreed at that meeting was the running of the Newsletter, it being proposed that one day, the findings from a structured programme of research based on members' contributions, should be codified into an authoritative document which could be a catalyst and reference point for this subject. I am pleased to announce, that if re-elected as Editor, I expect to complete that work during 2008.

The position of secretary is really the key role in a SIG, and I feel that the group would probably best be taken forward by someone younger and more in touch with current developments within the profession who can organise events and generate wider interest. Consequently, I would invite applications from interested members.

Bruce Widdowson