



Community Emergency Planning

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Today's session



INTRODUCTIONS



RISK AND RESPONSE



EMERGENCIES AND
RESILIENCE



EMERGENCY PLANS:
PURPOSE, CONTENT
AND PROCESS



QUESTIONS



go green!
18-24 March
Village Halls Week

acre network



Devon Communities Together



Devon Communities Together

Smart meters for a smarter Britain

Why it's time to get yours

Prioritise your WELLBEING with our FREE support

Smart meters are a key part of the smart grid, which will help to reduce carbon emissions and improve energy efficiency.

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Devon Community Resilience Forum

a working partnership between



Devon & Cornwall Police



DEVON & SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE



West Devon
Borough
Council



Some of the risks that communities might face

Weather/natural

- ▶ Wind
- ▶ Rain
- ▶ Cold
- ▶ Snow/ice
- ▶ Heatwave
- ▶ Fire
- ▶ Flooding
- ▶ Pandemic

Human made

- ▶ Transport incident (road/rail/air/sea)
- ▶ Terrorism
- ▶ Cyber attack
- ▶ Pollution
- ▶ Fire (waste/building/wildfire)
- ▶ Utilities failure
- ▶ Subsidence
- ▶ Lion

Exercise

- ▶ Think of three risks that might affect your community.
- ▶ For each risk, consider:
 - ▶ How you would **prevent** the risk from happening?
 - ▶ If a risk cannot be entirely prevented, what would you do to **mitigate** against the risk (ie lessen the impact)?
 - ▶ What things would you put into **action** during an actual occurrence of the event

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What is an Emergency?

A serious, unexpected, and often dangerous situation requiring immediate action. (OED)



A situation that poses an immediate risk to health, life, property, or environment.

Most emergencies require urgent intervention to prevent a worsening of the situation, although in some situations, mitigation may not be possible and agencies may only be able to offer palliative care for the aftermath. (Wikipedia)



An event or situation that threatens serious damage to human welfare in a place in the UK or to the environment of a place in the UK, or war or terrorism which threatens serious damage to the security of the UK. To constitute an emergency this event or situation must require the implementation of special arrangements by one or more Category 1 responder. (Cabinet Office)

Catastrophic emergency

An emergency that has an exceptionally high and potentially widespread impact and

requires immediate central government direction and support.

Resilience

Ability of the community, services, area or infrastructure to detect, prevent, and if necessary, to withstand, handle and recover from disruptive challenges.

What does a resilient community look like?

- Aware of risks that may affect them (both nationally and locally) and how vulnerable they are to such risks. This helps motivate them to personally take action to prepare for the consequences of emergencies.
- Work in partnership to complement the work of the professional responders and other organisations before, during and after an emergency.
- Use existing skills, knowledge and resources to prepare for, and deal with, the consequences of emergencies.

Why have an emergency plan?

- ▶ ‘Failing to prepare is preparing to fail.’ Exeter Chiefs changing room
- ▶ ‘We don’t need a plan, we just pull together, get on with it and sort it out.’ West Devon Parish Councillor
- ▶ ‘We had a plan, but it [the emergency] was worse than we expected.’ East Devon Parish Councillor
- ▶ ‘It didn’t go to plan, but we knew what to do, because we had thought about it.’ Response team member commenting on a blizzard
- ▶ ‘It was bad but it could have been far worse, the volunteers did a good job.’ Flood event incident commander



Case study - Dawlish

Case study - Dawlish

▶ 17th September 2023 - flood incident.



▶ Quick response: police shut the road, volunteers pulled debris from the water. Sandbags made available



▶ Communicating within the response team was difficult - WhatsApp group created



▶ 16th November - further flooding.

▶ WhatsApp group was used

▶ Equipment from the DCRF grant funding employed.

▶ Volunteer training came into play

▶ The coordinator said:

▶ *“the only time you know it’s going to work is when you’ve got to use it.”*

▶ *“We need everybody’s skills to have the best response”.*



What would you do in an emergency?

- If you had to leave your home due to an emergency, where would you go and what would you take with you?



What would you do in an emergency?

- ▶ Government suggests having these at home:
 - ▶ Battery or wind-up torch
 - ▶ Portable power bank for charging your mobile phone
 - ▶ Battery or wind-up radio to get updates during a power cut
 - ▶ Spare batteries for torch or radio
 - ▶ First aid kit
 - ▶ Wet wipes and hand sanitiser
 - ▶ Bottled water
 - ▶ Non-perishable food that does not require cooking (e.g. tinned meat, fruit or vegetables) and tin opener
 - ▶ Baby supplies (e.g. nappies and formula)

What is an emergency plan for?

Specifies procedures for handling sudden or unexpected situations.

- Prevent fatalities and injuries.
- Reduce damage to homes, buildings, stock, and equipment, livestock, property, infrastructure.
- Protect the environment and the community.
- Accelerate the recovery to normal life.

Local Emergency Plan

Helping communities help themselves

Can be:

Parish / Joint parishes / Town / Village / Location

Process:

- ❖ Community engagement
- ❖ Identify risks
- ❖ Seek to prevent or mitigate
- ❖ First responder
- ❖ Support emergency services
- ❖ Community recovery
- ❖ Learn and adapt

A Plan can be put together by those with experience and those with good local knowledge.

- Passive: contains information - contacts, resources
- Active: direct action, community engagement, equipment, training, rehearsal, analysis

Getting started:

- Workshops
- Guide & Template (see DCT web site)
- Informed help to compile a local plan
- Forum events

What makes a plan?

- Identifying your community
- Identifying existing local relationships and getting people involved
- Community emergency groups and co-ordinators
- Identifying the most vulnerable in an emergency
- Identifying and preparing for risks
- Assessing community skills and resources
- Insurance and health & safety
- Identifying key locations
- Emergency contacts list
- Held on confidential database

Devon Community Resilience Fund

- ▶ Scheme 1: To engage the community in developing the emergency plan - £250
- ▶ Scheme 2: for small scale works and resilience equipment - <£1,500



Questions ???

Further information

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Web site:

<https://www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/devon-community-resilience-forum>



Local resilience forums

- ▶ Category 1 & 2 organisations coming together in order to help co-operation between responders at the local level.



Community Risk Register

