

Exercise Maple

Part 1

- ▶ It is 8:00am on Wednesday 18th November.
- ▶ Devon has been experiencing prolonged spells of wet weather for several weeks. The Met Office have been warning of severe weather conditions due to arrive over Devon over the next 12 to 24 hours. Severe weather warnings have been issued by the Met Office and the Environment Agency.
- ▶ Most of Devon is forecast to experience severe and prolonged storm/gale conditions with high winds and heavy rainfall expected. BBC Local Radio has been advising communities to be prepared, take all necessary precautions and to continue to tune to local radio for further updates.
- ▶ **Considerations**
 - ▶ Think about the potential consequences for your community
 - ▶ How would you prepare for this situation?
 - ▶ Communications - who do you communicate with?

Part 2

At the end of the midday news, BBC Radio Devon reports that:-

“There is concern over the anticipated high winds and volume of rainfall expected over the next 12-24 hours over all of Devon. Reports suggest that catchments and rivers will not have fully drained before further rainfall arrives. There is therefore the potential for a large number of flood warnings and some severe flood warnings to be issued. Current forecasts suggest a high risk of significant damage to property and flooding in the county.”

► Considerations

- Who is at risk? Vulnerable members of the community - who are they?
- What actions do you take?
- How do you communicate with people?

Part 3

- ▶ There is a widespread power outage, including in your community. Road access is difficult in some parts due to flooding and landslips. Most areas that are prone to flooding have flooded. There is extensive damage caused by fallen trees and other debris. There is no mobile phone signal.
- ▶ **Considerations - how would you respond to each of these scenarios; spend 5 mins on each:**
- ▶ Partial collapse of a building: a cob wall has collapsed into the main street, leaving the roof unsafe. Four people live there.
- ▶ One of the people helping with the response feels unwell and complains of aching arms and pains in the chest.
- ▶ Fallen trees have broken the fenceline of a neighbouring field and a large flock of sheep is roaming the community.

Part 4

- ▶ The weather is now starting to clear, but it is after 6pm and dark. Several properties in the local area have flooded, but the water is starting to recede and access will soon be reinstated to the area. Power is still out in some communities, including those not affected by flooding. Using the decisions made it is time to think about recovery.
- ▶ **Considerations**
 - ▶ What further action is required initially?
 - ▶ How to wind up your activities?
 - ▶ Reviewing and learning.
 - ▶ Next steps...

Debrief Questions

- ▶ What problems did you come up against in developing your response?
- ▶ What are the most significant things you have learned?
- ▶ How can my community use this learning / experience to improve our future planned response?