

Introduction

This plan has been designed to enable the Parish Council to identify the immediate actions it should consider during, and in the immediate aftermath, of an emergency. These actions may assist the community and those affected in reducing the negative impacts an emergency can have until further assistance has been received.

Although there is no statutory requirement for any Parish Council to produce an emergency plan, Somerset County Council (SCC) encourages parishes to consider how they would respond to an emergency situation and to document the results in a Community Emergency Plan.

The Parish Council's responsibilities in responding to an emergency are as follows:

- Undertake local risk assessments
- Prepare a parish emergency plan
- Document resources and key contacts in time of emergency
- Validate and maintain the plan
- Enact the plan when activation criteria are met.

The plan has been designed to enable the community to respond to a major incident/emergency whilst they are awaiting the assistance of the Emergency Services and/or County Councils, or in support of them.

Definition of an Emergency/Major Incident

An emergency or major incident is defined as any event or circumstance (happening with or without warning) that causes or threatens death or injury, disruption to the community, or damage to property or to the environment.

Emergencies have no boundaries and could affect the whole Parish or part/whole of Somerset. Due to the unknown nature of emergencies, the emergency services and County Council and other agencies may be overwhelmed resulting in a delayed response to specific areas.

Types of potential emergencies that may impact on our community are:

- Flooding
- Heavy Snow or other Severe weather
- Electricity, Water or Gas failure
- Rail accident
- Road Accident
- Road Accident or other incident causing local roads to grid lock
- Fire/Building Collapse
- Gas Leak/Explosion
- Terrorism
- Hazardous vapour release
- Disease

Aims and objectives of the Plan

The aim of the Plan is to increase the short-term resilience of the community to an emergency by the identification of community procedures and to work with the emergency services and other agencies, as appropriate. In addition, it will provide warnings and information to the public.

The objectives of the Plan are to:

- Identify the risks to the community and relevant response actions
- Identify where to access information on vulnerable people in the community
- Identify resources in the community available to assist during an emergency
- Provide key contact details for the Parish Council Emergency Group, Key Community Resources, the Emergency Services and Local Authorities

Actions in the Event of an Emergency

Emergency contact telephone numbers:

EMERGENCY SERVICES FIRE/POLICE/AMBULANCE/COAST GUARD 999

Health (non-life threatening incident) 111

Environment Agency 24-hour incident hotline 0800 807060

www.gov.uk Flood line 24-hours 0345 9881188

www.gov.uk/flood Flood Map check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk

National Flood Forum 01299 403055 www.nationalfloodforum.org.uk water/sewerage

Wessex Water 0345 600 4600 [ut](#)

Gas leak / carbon monoxide (CO) 0800 111 999 cadentgas.com

National Grid power cut: 105 emergency: 0800 40 40 90 www.nationalgrid.com

BT/Openreach 0800 023 2023 www.openreach.com/help-and-support/damage-health-and-safety

Airband 0190 5676 121 www.airband.co.uk

Somerset Council 0300 123 2224 www.somerset.gov.uk

The Community Resilience in Somerset Partnership www.somersetprepared.org.uk

Communications

During an emergency there will be a requirement for reliable communications. It must be recognised that landline and mobile telephones may not be operable. The PCEG will use its initiative to utilise other forms of communication.

Community notification/updates. The PCEG will notify the community via the following methods:

Digital Communications	Website and Social Media.
Written Notices	Displayed on Notice Borads Parish Council notice boards: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Outside Village Hall2. Opposite School3. Darby Way4. Greenway5. Cothelstone6. Cushuish7. Stawell Road Plus Church Notice Board
Verbal Communication	Visiting vulnerable residents to share information and provide help if needed. Loud hailer

Parish Shelters

In the event of an emergency where people are required to leave their homes The Parish Council will set up a reception centre. The reception centre is designed to provide temporary shelter in the first instance.

The Parish Shelter is

The Village Hall

If you would like help with preparing a household Emergency Plan or if you would need help during an Emergency, please tell us what assistance you require.

If you are in a flood risk area there are resources and info available

Sign Up for Flood Alerts: Register for Environment Agency flood warnings at gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings.

Monitor Updates: Check the Flood Information Service for real-time updates.

Emergency Contacts:

Floodline: 0345 988 1188

Environment Agency Incident Hotline: 0800 80 70 60

Somerset Council: 0300 123 2224

Wessex Water (Sewer Flooding): 0345 600 4600

2. Evacuation Protocol

Prepare a Personal Flood Plan: Develop a plan detailing evacuation routes, emergency contacts, and essential items.

Avoid Floodwaters: Do not walk or drive through floodwaters; just 15 cm of fast-flowing water can knock you off your feet, and 30 cm can move a car.

Secure Your Property: Turn off utilities if safe to do so, move valuables to higher ground, and use sandbags or flood barriers.

3. Emergency Services Coordination

Report Flooding: Inform the appropriate authorities using the contacts above.

Community Support: Engage with Parish Council Emergency Co-ordinator

Emergency Supplies from Rotary EVAG

The Rotary Emergency Volunteer Action Group (EVAG) provides free flood packs to residents in flood-prone areas, including Bishops Lydeard. These packs contain:

Self-Inflating Flood Bags: Compact bags that expand upon contact with water, acting as instant sandbags.

Flood Barriers: Can be connected to form a temporary wall to divert water.

If you need any further information about Household Emergency planning or Flood Planning please contact the Clerk of The Parish Council