

Wiltshire Council Information

Subject:	Community Resilience- Emergency Plans
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Planning for emergencies is an important job for the organisations who respond to incidents, but it is also important for local communities to think about how you may be able to assist the emergency services and other responders.

The main way of doing this is to create a community emergency plan. This can be as simple as a contact list for key people within the community, or a more comprehensive plan which covers the emergencies which are most likely to occur in your area (rather than just the absolute worst-case scenarios), and how your community would respond to them. Your local knowledge is also very important to the organisations who will be responding to the situation. Information such as where floods most often, what roads could be made inaccessible by snow, how badly a power cut would affect your community and where the nearest places of safety are (village/community hall etc) can greatly help the emergency services, council and other groups. Having this recorded beforehand could potentially save a lot of time if the information is needed in response.

Keeping your plans flexible is also important; they should be able to be picked up for almost anything, even if you only use the contact details and information on the nearest community centre for most events.

Getting started with these plans can be difficult, and knowing what to include even harder. If you are stuck with where to begin, there is a template available to get you started with writing an emergency plan for your area. Please contact Sarah Kelly, Emergency Planning Officer, Wiltshire Council, if you would like a template, or advice about writing your plan. There is also a Community Risk Register Available on the Wiltshire & Swindon Local Resilience Forum (LRF) website (<http://wiltshireandswindonprepared.org.uk/community-risk-register/>). This details the different risks to the Wiltshire and Swindon area, and how likely they are to happen. This document should be adapted to your area if you wish to use its information, as not all risks are relevant to each part of Wiltshire.

It is recommended that to keep your plan in its best condition, it should be exercised with everyone who has a role in it once a year, and contact details should be updated at least once a year, or when there has been a change. There is an exercise template available if you would like to exercise your plan, it is available as a PowerPoint presentation or a Word document, again please contact Sarah Kelly if you would like to discuss the exercise or be sent a template.