

Is your community ready for an emergency? Get ready for the unexpected **Community Emergency Plans**

Get ready for the unexpected:

Have you ever thought about how your community would cope in an emergency? Who would step up and take the lead? Could you get quick access to local resources and local expertise? Do you know which people in your community might need particular support?

The emergency response agencies will do all they can to help our communities, but they also rely on local people being ready to help themselves. Emergencies can significantly disrupt our daily lives and whilst we can't prevent them happening, you can produce a community emergency plan to minimise the impact.

What is a Community Emergency Plan?

When an emergency happens there usually isn't the time to stop and think. A community emergency plan will give immediate access to the key telephone numbers, local information and action prompts that you will need to support your community in an emergency.

Why do we need a Community Emergency Plan

Emergencies do happen. Cumbria is a very rural county and because of this there will be an amount of time where you as a community may need to respond to a situation on your own until help arrives. By having a Community Plan, you can be prepared and have the right information and the right local support around you to deal with the initial response.

Has your community / neighbourhood watch scheme got a Community Emergency Plan – have you shared it with the relevant responding agencies?

Preparing and working together for major emergencies is known as community resilience. At the forefront of any local emergency is the community and having a Community Plan that can help coordinate immediate local response should an emergency happen can have multiple benefits. The Community Resilience Network (local government and voluntary agencies) meets quarterly to review and discuss Community Emergency Plans. This network is designed to ensure your community plan is reviewed and shared with the emergency response agencies. This means your Community Plan can be integrated into the higher level emergency response plans and procedures and stored on Cumbria Community Messaging, a secure platform where your plan can be viewed and used to help communicate with you.

Community Resilience Network partners will:

- Assist in engaging with elected representatives and circulate your plan to the relevant organisations.
- Respond with areas where the responding organisations may have a role to play in assisting the development of your plan e.g. helping make links with funding programmes.
- Help to make links between the community and other key local initiatives.
- Provide a link to information, such as relevant websites.
- Signpost groups to relevant officers for specialist information e.g. demographics / maps / local risks.

T: 01768 812500

Cumbria Community Resilience Network Group contacts:

Cumbria County Council Emergency Planning Officer – emergency.planning@cumbria.gov.uk
or

Environment Agency Flood Resilience Advisor - CLfloodresilience@environment-agency.gov.uk

Guidance links below to:

To get started, we have produced the below guidance :

For Towns and large villages:

- 10 x Step Plan Toolkit – [Click Here](#)
- 10 x Step Plan Flowchart – [Click Here](#)

For smaller areas such as a small village or street we have a lite version

- Smaller Communities and Parish Community Emergency Plan information – [Click Here](#)
- Follow the flowchart on the next page

Once your community emergency plan is on CCM, you will be contacted every six months with details of how to access your plan on CCM to ensure all of the details are still current and up to date.

Putting plans in place isn't about doing the job of the emergency services. It's about doing what you can to support your community and the people in it by making sensible preparations.

Community Emergency Plan process

Community group / neighbourhood watch scheme want to create a Community Emergency Plan



Refer to the guidance documents set out above



Once an initial draft plan is set up – send to Cumbria Community Resilience Network contact



Draft plan will be circulated to the emergency responding agencies for comment



Feedback will be collated and given back to community group / neighbourhood watch scheme



Group to finalise plan



Submit to Community Resilience Network who will store securely on CCM (Cumbria Community Messaging) system to enable access by emergency responders to your plan in an emergency if required



Contact will be made with key community co-ordinator to check details still up to date on a six monthly basis



Community members to attend the bi-annual community resilience conference to validate community emergency plan, network and share best practice with partners and other community / neighbourhood groups



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