



Community Emergency Planning

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About GRCC

- A countywide VCS organisation working to **create thriving, sustainable places for local people to live and work**
- Member of **ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England)** - a national network of 38 Rural Community Councils
- **Enable sustainable community development** through partnerships with statutory sector bodies, the voluntary and community sector, and communities, specialising in championing rural communities
- **Inspire, enable, and deliver community action** through affordable housing, climate change, digital inclusion, mental health & wellbeing projects, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure support and Community Led Planning

What is Community Emergency Planning?

Community emergency planning increases resilience by **harnessing local resources and expertise to help the community help themselves** during an emergency.

Parish and Town Councils *do not* have any statutory duty to:

- create a Community Emergency Plan (CEP)
- act as a first responder to residents in an emergency

The creation of a simple plan will increase understanding of risk, and help reduce the impacts on communities, infrastructure, essential services and the environment.

Community Emergency Plans (CEPs)

- Outlines risks a community might face e.g. forest fire, flood, infectious disease, utility failure
- Outlines first steps a community can take to enable a quick, efficient response
- Summarises knowledge, skills and resources within a community who might be able to help reduce long and short term impacts
- Allows for a streamlined response that complements the work of Category 1 & 2 responders who have statutory duties



Name of Community

Community Emergency Plan

Plan last updated: DD/MM/YY
Plan version: 1.0
Unrestricted or Restricted Version

**If you or anyone else is in immediate danger call 999
Do not put yourself or others at risk**

What Community Emergency Plans DO NOT do

- Remove the duties of the emergency services, local authorities, and other organisations with statutory responsibilities
- Pass responsibilities over to the Parish Council or community
- Encourage or ask individuals to put themselves or others at risk



A Changing Environment

Due to climate change and other external factors, we are seeing more regular, and more extreme, emergencies.

What can we do?

- Ensure our communities are strong, resilient, and have the capacity to adapt to the changing environment, whilst also mitigating the impacts of these changes
- Develop inclusive communities that can work together to create a sustainable future for younger generations

Community Emergency Planning in SDC

Community Emergency Planning aligns with Stroud District Council's second priority:

- **Community Resilience & Wellbeing – strengthening and supporting our communities so people feel included and connected**

Emergency preparedness and response contributes to resilience by:

- allowing the community to respond in a way that works best for them
- ensuring communities have the capacity to return to 'business as usual', as quickly as possible
- reducing knock on effects to health & wellbeing, the environment, and the local economy

Other Community Resilience Projects

Resources to develop and support **Community Climate Action** will aim to:

- empower communities to have a method of identifying the biggest issues they face
- recommend environmentally-friendly actions to help combat issues and mitigate climate change
- Ensure actions consider social and economical co-benefits

GRCC facilitate and coordinate **Volunteer Flood Warden Programmes** throughout Gloucestershire in partnership with Tewkesbury and Cheltenham Borough Councils, and Stroud and Cotswold District Councils.

Other Community Resilience Projects

VCS Emergencies Partnership Local Lead

- A national partnership that brings together local infrastructure and VCS organisations who play a crucial role in major emergencies
- Sharing learning and best practice to enable the very best emergency response by building capability and harnessing local knowledge

For more information, please contact:

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