Guide to emergency planning for community groups
If you’re interested in helping your community get better prepared for risks like flooding, severe weather or power failure, you can act now. **Find out how to make yourself, your family and your community more resilient.**

Go to readyscotland.org for all the information you need to make a start, including ‘The Guide to Emergency Planning for Community Groups’.

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WHY PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES?

Emergencies happen. In the last few years, Scotland has experienced severe winter weather, flooding, travel disruption, fuel shortages and a pandemic flu outbreak. Challenges like these affect us all in going about our daily lives, and every community has a different reason for wanting to plan to get through them.

Putting plans in place isn’t about doing the job of the emergency services. It’s about supporting your community and the people in it by making sensible preparations – using the skills, knowledge and resources that your community already has and building new skills and knowledge.

Every day in Scotland thousands of people need to attend hospital for life-saving treatments like dialysis. If ice and snow created a problem for someone’s hospital transport in your area, could your community get together to help?

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?

The good news is that your community can make a big difference by taking a few simple steps to be more prepared to deal with emergencies. The Scottish Government has published a ‘Guide to Emergency Planning for Community Groups’ which will help you to do this.
There are lots of easy ways to help. You can choose to support some of the work already happening in your area, or do something new.

**WHAT IS A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN?**

A community emergency plan is a way to bring people together to think about how they can work together and put plans in place to cope better when an emergency happens.
GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLE:

A house fire broke out in a rural community during a spell of severe winter weather in 2011. Community members knew not to try to tackle the fire, but they played a vital role. While the fire service was on its way, they worked to ensure that the fire engine was able to get to the scene, by clearing ice and snow from the access road. A local farmer used his tractor to tow the fire engine part of the way to the building which was on fire.

Many Scottish communities have produced Community Emergency plans and examples of some of these (along with other actions communities are taking to make them more resilient) can be found at readyscotland.org

The Guide will help you:

- Think about the risks your community faces
- Get the right advice
- Think about local skills, knowledge and resources
- Involve all the people who can help
- Write and test a plan

It contains templates that you can download, adapt and use in your community.
GET THE RIGHT HELP

In preparing a Community Emergency Plan it is very important that you:

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• Talk to people in your community who have skills, knowledge or equipment that they can use to help; and

• Talk to your local authority to make sure that what you are planning fits in with the “big picture” of how your local emergency responders would act in an emergency.

Your local authority can provide invaluable help. They can:

• Give you advice about the sort of risks that your community may face

• Let you know if they are aware of any existing community resilience groups in your area

• Help you understand how the emergency response organisations like the police and fire and rescue services will work together to help

• Put you in touch with the key people locally.

The Guide to Emergency Planning for Community Groups, and contact details for your local authority’s emergency planning and response team can be found on the Ready Scotland website at readyscotland.org