

## WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

**Actions** If you are notified of an emergency by the Police, follow the advice you are given.

**You may be told to do any or all of the below:-**

- Go indoors, close doors and windows, turn off ventilation.
- Tune in to local radio and TV for further information.
- Avoid using mobile phones, as this can overload the system, preventing the Emergency Services from communicating with each other.
- Turn off gas and electricity.
- Evacuate your home (see below).

**Evacuation** If you are advised to evacuate:-

- Respond to instructions from the Emergency Services.
- Use whatever transport is recommended.
- Report to any named location where advice will be available.
- If you know someone who is elderly, infirm, vulnerable or housebound, tell a member of the Emergency Services.

Use the checklist below.

**Check List** If you are advised to evacuate:-

- Check that everyone in the family is present or accounted for.
- If possible, leave pets behind. There may be few facilities for caring for pets. If you must take them, bring leads, cages or containers and other equipment needed to look after them. You will be responsible for your pet.
- Bring medicines you are currently using, and special food for babies.
- Dress warmly.
- Turn off all electrical appliances, water and gas outlets.
- Lock all doors and windows.

## IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE..

**We are able to provide....**

Advice and information on civil contingencies and emergency planning matters.

Presentations on civil contingencies and emergency planning to interested groups.

**If you want to know more, please contact:**

Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Unit,  
Somerset County Council,  
County Hall,  
Taunton,  
Somerset TA1 4DY

**Tel:** 01823 356804

**email:** [civilcontingencies@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:civilcontingencies@somerset.gov.uk)

**Working together for equalities:**



This document is also available on request in Braille, large print, tape or disc and can be translated into different languages.

We value diversity. We are committed to promoting equality of opportunity and fair access to services based on need.

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# Civil Contingencies & Emergency Planning

A Brief Guide



FACT SHEET 1

What Local Authority civil contingency planning is all about, advice on what to do in an emergency and where to get more information.

# WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Emergencies can and do happen, and, as a result, can threaten and disrupt the social, economic or environmental well-being of the local community.

**JULY 2005** - London Bombings. 56 deaths, severe disruption to transport and homes evacuated

## Emergencies could result from:

- Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear incidents (CBRN)
- Transport disasters (road, rail, air, marine)
- Flooding
- Oil pollution
- Severe weather
- Fire
- Terrorist incidents
- Epidemic/Pandemic

Somerset Local Authorities, together with the Emergency Services, NHS bodies and the Environment Agency, are required to assess the risk of emergencies occurring which threaten the well-being of the community and environment. They maintain plans to anticipate, prevent, reduce the effects of, and recover from, emergencies. From 2006, the Local Authorities will also be providing advice to local businesses about how to keep going in an emergency.

# WHO DOES WHAT?

**Police** - The Police have responsibility for the protection of life and property, and investigation into criminal acts. They provide the overall co-ordination of responding agencies in the event of a major incident.

**Fire Service** - The Fire Service is responsible for fire-fighting and rescue operations in response to an incident. They also have the capability of rapid pumping of huge quantities of water out of flooded areas, and decontamination of victims of CBRN incidents.

**Ambulance Service** - The Ambulance Service provides ambulances crewed by highly trained personnel who are able to deal with the immediate medical needs of casualties and transport them to hospital.

**Local Authorities** - Somerset County Council and the five District and Borough Councils (Mendip, Sedgemoor, South Somerset, Taunton Deane and West Somerset) work in partnership to plan, prepare for and respond to major incidents and co-ordinate the return to normality, in order to care for the needs of the people and communities affected by disaster. An emergency helpline - 'Somerset Direct' 0845 345 9188 provides an information service to the public.

**Voluntary Organisations** - Voluntary Organisations work closely with Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies Officers and offer a broad range of skills to assist in the response to disaster.

# WHAT DO WE DO?

## The Somerset Local Authorities' Civil Contingencies

**Partnership** produces plans and procedures that aim to prevent, control or reduce the effects of major incidents. The partners are: West Somerset Council, Mendip District Council, Sedgemoor District Council, South Somerset District Council, Taunton Deane Borough Council and Somerset County Council (lead authority). Plans are developed with the involvement of the Emergency Services, Health Authorities, voluntary organisations, utilities providers and other organisations.

## Other services the Local Authorities may provide include:

- Rest centres, emergency feeding and temporary accommodation in the event of evacuation of homes.
- Emergency vaccination centres in the event of mass vaccination against pandemic flu or smallpox.
- Scientific advice in the event, for instance, of a chemical spillage.
- Contaminated waste collection and disposal.
- Information and advice to the public.
- Business Continuity advice.

