

What you should do in an emergency

- If it is safe to go indoors, close all windows and doors and stay there.
- Listen to local radio and television for further information; make sure you have some batteries for your radio if the power supplies fail.
- Do not use the phone unless you have to, this keeps the lines free for emergency use.
- If necessary turn off any gas or electricity supplies.
- You will be advised by the Emergency Services if you need to evacuate.

If you do need to evacuate

- Follow instructions from the emergency services.
- Get together all the family and pets.
- Make sure you take any medicines, special equipment or food.
- Take some warm clothing.
- Turn off all electrical devices and switch off the gas, electricity and water supplies if you have time.
- Lock your property as you leave.

If you want to know more about emergency planning please contact:

County Emergency Planning Service
Devon County Council
County Hall
Topsham Road
Exeter EX2 4QD

Tel: 01392 382680

Fax: 01392 382709

Email: emerplan@devon.gov.uk

www.devon.gov.uk/index/community/emergencies.htm



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Devon County Council's

Emergency Planning Service

protecting the community
in the event of a major emergency



DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

It won't happen to us... or will it?





Disasters, whether natural or man-made, small or large scale, can and do occur. The immediate effects may last hours or days, but the long-term effects may require local authority support over months or even years. The County Council's emergency planning service helps you to be prepared for unexpected events and emergencies in Devon.

Emergencies in Devon

These events have all occurred in Devon over the past five years:

- **Foot and mouth crisis** – this had a severe impact on agriculture, tourism and rural life.
- **Flooding** – with hundreds of miles of coastline and many rivers, the possibility of 'flash floods' in the event of storms or heavy rainfall is a significant risk to many of our communities.
- **Oil pollution from shipping accidents** – while there have been major incidents elsewhere, thankfully those in Devon have been small and quickly disbursed.
- **Gas leaks** – some required evacuation; others were quickly contained.
- **World War II bomb** – it may have lain dormant for 60 years, but an unexploded bomb usually requires an evacuation.
- **Chemical spills** – whether from an overturned vehicle or a factory leak, advice will be needed as to whether to stay indoors or be evacuated to a safer location.

Who does what in an emergency?

The response to an emergency usually involves a number of different organisations all of whom work together to co-ordinate their response.

- The **Police** are responsible for the protection of life and property and generally co-ordinate the initial response to an incident.
- The **Fire & Rescue Service** is responsible for fire fighting, fire prevention and rescue operations to save lives.
- The **Ambulance Service** deals with immediate casualties, either on the spot or by transporting them to hospital.
- The **Maritime & Coastguard Agency** would bring their specialist knowledge and skills to any maritime incidents
- **Devon County Council** works with District Councils to provide an immediate response to emergency situations, including the opening of Emergency Rest Centres. The County has an Emergency Response Plan which is used in the event of a major emergency or disaster
- The **Environment Agency** is responsible for flood defence and flood warnings – but not for the response to flooding situations
- **Voluntary Organisations** offer a broad range of skills to assist the disaster response. Partner organisations include the British Red Cross Society, Salvation Army, St John Ambulance, WVRS and many more.

Other emergencies which could happen:

Severe weather **Fire** Human health
Animal health Terrorism **Transport accident**
 Radioactive or nuclear accidents
Chemical or biological incidents

