



## Is your community prepared for an emergency?

### Hi and welcome to our first Community Emergency Planning Newsletter.

We have been busy over the last 12 months. May 2012 saw the Olympic Torch pass through the County on two occasions and Her Majesty the Queen also attended a celebration at RAF Cosford as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations in June 2012.

In terms of incidents, we had to evacuate an area of Ludlow as a result of the instability of the Town Walls. We assisted in the response to a fire in Market Drayton involving Acetylene Cylinders. We responded to two weeks of flooding over Christmas and new year 2012/2013 and snow in March 2013 saw us activating our snowline service.

### Seasonal Flu

Protect yourself and others



As we approach the autumn, it is important that we all work together to protect ourselves and others from seasonal flu by getting ourselves vaccinated, especially those most at risk.

Symptoms are typically a sudden high temperature, headache, aches and pains, tiredness and sore throat. Feeling sick, tiredness and loss of appetite are also common.

A wide range of people are more at risk of more serious complications from flu. A flu vaccine is available free on the NHS for:

- Everyone aged 65 and over.
- Everyone under 65 years of age who has a medical condition.
- All pregnant women.
- All two and three year old children.

- Everyone living in a residential or nursing home
- Everyone who cares for an older or disabled person.
- Household contacts of anyone who is immunocompromised.
- All frontline health and social care workers.

Everybody has a part to play in reminding friends, neighbours and relatives to take up the offer of receiving the flu vaccine if they are eligible, and helping out when people become ill by collecting prescriptions or shopping etc.

Additional information is available on the NHS Choices website:

<http://nhs.uk/conditions/flu/pages/introduction.aspx>

### Remember.....Make a P.L.A.N



**P**repare  
know the hazards, know what to do.



**L**ink Up  
Keep in contact with your family, know where to meet



**A**ccommodate  
Who can you stay with if you cannot return to your house?



**N**ecessary Kit  
Essential items you'll need in or out of your home.

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## Community Resilience

Who we've been working with



We have been working with communities in Shropshire over the last few years to assist them in the development of plans to deal with localised emergencies.

This year the following groups have either been convened, or have continued to plan for unexpected emergencies in their area.

### **Church Stretton Community Emergency Team**

Church Stretton developed a plan in 2012, and we were able to test the arrangements during the summer this year. We exercised their call cascade and undertook a table top exercise to discuss how the group would respond to a range of scenarios from flooding to pandemic flu in their community. The exercise was supported by West Mercia Police and Shropshire Fire and Rescue and was enjoyed by all.

### **Culmington Flood Action Group**

The Flood Action Group in Culmington formed in spring 2013 as a result of a number of residents being affected by severe flooding in 2012 and 2011. The group have undertaken a number of surveys of the brook and have been pivotal in researching the problems causing flooding in the area and developing solutions to reduce the flood risk in Culmington.

### **Llanyblodwel Rapid Response Catchment**

Llanyblodwel were identified as a Rapid Response Catchment by the Environment Agency (EA) in 2012.

Since then, we have been working with the EA, the Parish Council and the Emergency Services to ensure that effective warning systems are in place for residents to be able to react in a timely manner should a flood occur.

### **All Stretton**

All Stretton are also affected by flooding and the group that has been formed by Richard Hubbard are working with the Flood and Water Management Team at Shropshire Council to encourage people to have a free property flood protection survey. They have identified the village hall as an ideal place for people to go to should they require temporary accommodation in the event of an emergency.

### **Much Wenlock Flood Action Group**

The flood action group in Much Wenlock have been continuing to recruit and train volunteers to assist with door knocking, and helping people lay sandbags/flood gates should a flood occur. They now have around X volunteers and continue to update their plan on a regular basis.

If you feel that your community could benefit from writing a community emergency plan, or would like to know more about the schemes already in place in your area, please contact the Emergency Planning Team at [epu.admin@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:epu.admin@shropshire.gov.uk) or 01743 252844.

## Winter is Coming

Prepare for the cold weather



With winter nearly upon us, it would be wise to start preparing for severe weather and the likelihood of snow. Especially if we look back at what has happened in recent years. By being prepared, you will put less demand on both the resources of the emergency services and the local authority. By being pro-active in dealing with freezing conditions and snow you will also be increasing the resilience of the community you live in.



Here are a few points to think about:

- Have a good pair of boots that you can wear instead of leather soled shoes or trainers as they will provide you with more grip and warmth in icy/snowy conditions.
- To help prevent ice and snow building up on pavements and driveways, you can use any form of salt. This must be put down before it snows or freezing conditions are reached to be effective.

## Winter is Coming... cnt'd

Prepare for the cold weather

- Pay attention to weather forecasts.
- Check on your neighbour, especially if you know they may be vulnerable at this time of year.
- Make an 'Emergency Grab Bag' to keep at home and a smaller one to keep in the car.

### Points of contact

#### Meet the Team:



Lianne Deathridge  
Emergency Planning Team  
Leader  
Tel: 01743 252842

E-mail: [lianne.deathridge@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:lianne.deathridge@shropshire.gov.uk)



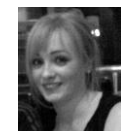
Sherry Woolgrove  
Emergency Planning Officer  
Tel: 01743 252845

E-mail: [sherry.woolgrove@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:sherry.woolgrove@shropshire.gov.uk)



Emma-Jane Ellison  
Emergency Planning Officer  
Tel: 01743 252841

E-mail: [emma-jane.ellison@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:emma-jane.ellison@shropshire.gov.uk)



Nicola Wall  
Emergency Planning  
Administration Officer  
Tel: 01743 252844

E-mail: [Nicola.wall@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Nicola.wall@shropshire.gov.uk)

## What are we doing?

Prepare for the cold weather



We are holding an exercise to test our own emergency and business continuity arrangements in November 2013.

We will be exercising the Llanyblodwel Rapid Response Plan with our Multi Agency Partners in January 2014.

We have been invited to present at the national RAYNET AGM in October. RAYNET were set up to provide emergency communications in the event of landline/mobile phone failures.

Our Notifiable Animal Diseases Plan is currently being updated and we will be looking to hold an exercise to validate this in spring 2014.

## Keep Shropshire Warm

Prepare for the cold weather



Rising energy prices over the last few years have left many more of us struggling to be able to heat our homes. According to the latest statistics, Shropshire has the second highest ratio of households in fuel poverty in the UK with nearly 1 in 4 households struggling to pay fuel bills.

## Keep Shropshire Warm

Prepare for the cold weather



There are specific health consequences of exposure to low temperatures and the drivers of fuel poverty are significant factors in determining the temperatures at which individuals live. Health impacts caused by exposure to cold tend to relate to cardiovascular and respiratory problems. Low temperatures are also associated with diminished resistance to infections and the incidence of damp and mould in the home (which are also associated with lower standards of energy efficiency. These effects are most important for the youngest children and increase for the most elderly.

To find out how you can start saving money on your fuel bills, or get information on the government's Green Deal initiative to receive help on heating, solar energy etc, contact the Energy Savings Advice Service on 0300 123 1234.

### Useful numbers

Emergency Services	999
Police Non-Emergency	101
Shropshire Council	0345 678 9000
Floodline	0845 988 1188
NHS Direct	0845 4647