



BRIDESTOWE'S EMERGENCY PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

Past experience has shown that the people of Bridestowe are very supportive of each other in the event of a crisis. However, the Civil Contingencies Act 2005 suggests that parish councils prepare a contingency plan for self-help in case of an emergency.

Nearly all emergencies affecting our community will normally be dealt with by the emergency blue light services, local authorities and major utility companies. However, there may be rare occasions when the community will have to help itself, for example heavy snowfall that might prevent the emergency services from reaching the scene immediately. In such cases the initial response may rely entirely on Bridestowe residents; this plan describes how such an initial response will be coordinated and includes some general information.

Initial Actions

If anyone is aware of serious incident happening or threatening, then inform the Emergency Services via 999 or 112 providing this information:

Your name

Your contact number

Full details of the incident

Exact location of the incident

Emergency Service requested

Estimated casualties

Hazards and road blockages

Then contact Emergency Co-ordinator: Chris Proctor 0786 252 629 He will contact key members of the Parish Council Emergency Response Team- PCERT

Primary Assembly Point

All volunteers who are willing to help in the emergency will be informed where to meet. If appropriate this could be

EITHER the Methodist Church Hall, bringing mobile phones with them.

Key holder/main contact Brian Maddaford 861402

OR the Bridestowe Village Hall which has cooking, washing and toilet facilities. There is a telephone.

Key holder/ main contact Esther Winter 07946 992200

Incident logging

During the emergency, anyone involved in coordinating a response should keep a log of all requests for assistance and action taken. This will done by a member of the response team.

POSSIBLE EMERGENCIES:

1. Snow and Ice:

This could result in fallen trees, supply disruption of power and other utilities, blocked roads and failure of public transport.

- Contact should be made with the service supplier/s, to:
 - Report the loss of service;
 - Obtain an estimate of time when the service would be restored. (If reconnection is likely to be delayed, the supplier/s should be asked to institute emergency measures to assist the community in dealing with the situation until normal service is resumed).



2. High Winds and Loss of Power and Communications:

Much of the local medium-voltage power and telecommunications networks, both outside and within certain areas of the town/parish rely on overhead cabling. Localised outages are therefore to be anticipated during exceptionally windy weather. Mobile phone coverage in the parish is patchy, and will not always therefore be able to provide backup in the event of wired network failures.

Contact should be made with the service suppliers

Extreme high winds may also cause disruption - including blocked roads - due to fallen trees and other minor structural damage to building.

3. Flooding:

Widespread or sustained flooding in the village centre is unlikely, however, flooding may develop from exceptionally intense storm events ("flash flooding") and/or blocked culverts and drains. Although flash flood events are - by their nature - impossible to anticipate, damage due to other types of flood may be mitigated by sand-bagging to property entrances, etc. A supply of sand and sandbags is available through the Parish Council for this purpose; they are located in the car park of the White Hart and it is recommended that households at risk of flooding collect the necessary sacks and sand so that they are at hand. Contact the Parish Council Clerk, Kayleigh Walker, 07854 275 955 if you wish to arrange to collect some.

4. Road Traffic Accidents or Aircraft Crash:

This would probably be only a short-term problem before the Emergency Services would take over, but hot drinks etc., could be available in all areas, provided by local household volunteers.

5. Water Supply Outages:

Management is a specialised technical function of the utility supplier (South West Water), but effectiveness of health warning will be assisted by good communications within the local community.

6. Major Pollution or Contamination Incident:

Management of such an incident is technically specialised, and appropriate response by the Parish community would thus be confined to communication and observance of any measures recommended by the Environment Agency, Police and other Emergency Services.

7. Pandemic

In anticipation of an announcement from the Government of a pandemic the Parish Council will bring together a team comprising of those with the skills needed to manage any actions deemed necessary, each with specific responsibilities and with input from local healthcare professionals. They will implement measures that will:

- ensure all parish residents receive a leaflet with contact details for those requiring assistance
- compile a list of volunteers detailing services they can provide
- appoint a coordinator who will match those requiring help to providers
- put up appropriate NHS notices on village noticeboards, website and social media
- ensure that the needs of identified elderly, infirm, disabled or special needs people needs are met
- the monthly newsletter will be used to update residents. The 'pandemic' team will hold regular virtual meetings to review the situation and will endeavour to be inline with Government directives

Emergency defibrillators

A high energy electric shock, given to the heart in some types of cardiac arrest, may restore a more stable rhythm. This is called defibrillation, and it's an essential lifesaving step in the chain of survival. They are simple and safe. The machine gives clear spoken instructions. You don't need training to use one.

Once in position, the defibrillator detects the heart's rhythm. It won't deliver a shock unless one is needed.

The parish's emergency defibrillators are situated on the front of the Riverside Stores building, next to the river and requires no code to access it **and** on the outside wall of the Village Hall which does. When the natural daylight level decreases, a white flashing light starts and continues all night until sunrise; this serves to illuminate the device.

EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATION AND RESOURCES:

There are 2 halls plus churches within the community which could provide a place of safety and shelter, and be able to supply hot drinks and biscuits.

Spare accommodation can be provided at Glebe Park, Knole Farm, the Fox and Hounds

Village Resources

The team will assess if resources such as four-wheel drive vehicle, lifting equipment or chainsaws may be required and they will contact the appropriate providers

Village Skills

The team will assess if skills such as those of doctors, nurses and firstaiders may be required and contact the appropriate providers.

Vulnerable Groups

If appropriate (for example, if the emergency occurs during the day in term time) contact the primary school, Treetops. There may be vulnerable individuals whose welfare may need to be considered, for example disabled, elderly, housebound and parents with young children. (A log of vulnerable individuals will be kept by the Emergency Co-ordinator and will be regularly updated).

In any emergency it would be useful for all households to know how to turn off water, gas and electricity supply to their home.



"I've made our family emergency disaster plan. In the event your family visits, I evacuate!"

General guidance in case of an emergency

In an emergency dial 999. Do not put yourself or others at risk. Follow the advice of the emergency services.

If the danger is outside - STAY IN: Go in, Stay In, Tune In
Listen to local radio and TV news

If the danger is inside - STAY OUT Go out, Stay out
(or you are told to evacuate)

If it is safe and you have time

- Take the items you need (including your emergency bag)
- Switch off power and lock doors and windows
- Go to a safe place
- Move pets to a safe place with plenty of food and water.
- Stay out of flood water: Whether in the car or on foot, you don't know what's beneath the surface

A copy of this plan is available via the Bridestowe website

This plan is next due for review on 1/7/26