

OUR SAFETY

We live in a fairly safe place, but we still experience emergencies and disruption caused by issues like severe weather, wild fires and flooding, and from issues such as fuel shortages, animal diseases, and pandemic viruses.

Challenges like these can affect us all in our daily lives, but when communities organise themselves to prepare for emergencies, it can make a big difference.

OUR SUPPORT NETWORK

Scotland has a network of organisations who work together to respond to and recover from emergencies - our “emergency responders”. They include what we think of as the “emergency services”: police, fire and ambulance, but also other organisations like local authorities and the NHS. Voluntary groups such as mountain rescue teams and the Coast Guard also assist the responder agencies.

These organisations come together as Resilience Partnerships which enable them to prepare for and respond to emergencies in a joined-up way.

However, the emergency responders can't be everywhere at once. They will always have to prioritise people in greatest need, especially where lives are at risk.

Arisaig & District Community Council

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WHY PLAN FOR AN EMERGENCY



VOLUNTARY SECTOR GROUPS

Voluntary sector groups regularly work alongside the emergency responders. Both say that this works best where they have an established relationship and don't have to start from scratch when an emergency occurs. It helps that they know who to talk to and have planned in advance what to do.

Having a Community Emergency Plan doesn't mean that your group replaces the emergency responders

At the heart of how communities get through emergencies is down to their “resilience” – this means using their strengths to:

prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

<https://ready.scot/get-involved/community-groups/guide-emergency-planning-community-groups>

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

...are aware of risks that may affect them and how vulnerable they are to those risks.

...use their existing skills, knowledge and resources to prepare for, and deal with, the consequences of emergencies.

...work together to complement the work of the local emergency responders before, during and after an emergency.

A COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN

... is one way in which your group can help your community become more resilient. It can help your community cope until the emergency responders arrive and help it recover in the long term.

Past incidents have shown that people already support and help each other during times of need. Simple acts of help and kindness can make all the difference. It's important to remember that you need to **have support from your community** for a Plan to work.

People need to be prepared to sign up and offer to get involved in helping if an emergency happens. Raising awareness and encouraging people to see the value of 'joining in' are an important part of building the foundations for a Plan.

To make your Plan more effective, as diverse a group as possible, within your community, should have a chance to get involved. Different people bring different skills and opportunities.