

TYPE OF EMERGENCY

Severe Gale/Storm



(forecast gusts over 70 mph)

Flooding



(eg a "Flood Warning" or "Severe Flood Warning" is issued)

Toxic Chemical or Radiation Release



If you were near a toxic chemical or radiation release and you think you may have been contaminated - wait for the Emergency Services, they will provide decontamination facilities. This will include asking you to remove any contaminated clothing and showering in portable shower units. Replacement clean/dry clothing will be provided.

GO IN, STAY IN, TUNE IN



In an emergency the Authorities will broadcast safety information on local radio.

Local Stations covering Somerset

BBC Somerset Sound 1566 AM

Orchard FM 102.6, 97.1, 96.5 FM

IVEL FM 105.6, 106.6 FM

BCR (Bridgwater) 107.4 FM

Quay West Radio 102.4, 100.8 FM

Star107.7 107.7FM

BEFOREHAND

- Secure outdoor items
- Bring pets indoors
- Close doors and windows
- Draw curtains in case of flying glass
- Check on vulnerable neighbours
- Monitor TV/radio weather warnings
(but unplug external TV aerials during thunderstorms)

- Move possessions to a higher level
- Protect doorways and airvents with sandbags or floodboards
- Monitor TV weather reports, and the Environment Agency's Floodline 0845 988 1188 or website at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/>
- Flood warnings are also on Ceefax page 419 and Teletext page 154

- Go indoors and stay there
- Bring pets inside too
- Close outside doors, windows and airvents
- Turn off fans – hot air heating systems, ventilation, etc
- Cover all unsealed fresh food
- Listen to your local radio station for further advice

Need more information?



Please contact: Mendip District Council 01749 648999
<http://www.mendip.gov.uk/>

Sedgemoor District Council 0845 408 2540
www.sedgemoor.gov.uk

Somerset County Council 0845 345 9166
www.somerset.gov.uk

South Somerset District Council 01935 462462
www.southsomerset.gov.uk

Taunton Deane Borough Council 01823 356356
www.tauntondeane.gov.uk

West Somerset Council 01643 703704
www.westsomersetonline.gov.uk

DURING/AFTER

- Stay indoors until storm passes
- Check for damage, make safe if possible
- Beware of fallen cables, weakened trees, loose masonry

- If your home is flooded turn off gas, electricity and water supplies
- Move upstairs if possible
- If trapped in deep flooding, stay by a window and call for help
- When water recedes DO NOT switch gas, etc back on until systems have been inspected
DO throw away food that has been in contact with flood water

DON'T go outside until told it is safe to do so

DON'T try to collect children from school unless instructed to - they will be looked after

DON'T use rainwater, or eat locally grown vegetables until told they are safe

DON'T leave the scene or take yourself to hospital if you think you are contaminated, WAIT for specialist advice

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS:

HOW TO PREPARE

CHECK AND UPDATE YOUR EMERGENCY PLANS REGULARLY!

The chances of you being caught up in a major emergency or disaster are low. Nevertheless it may happen and this leaflet shows how you can be better prepared to protect yourself and others.

What is a Major Emergency?

Essentially a major emergency is something on a scale that needs special arrangements to deal with it, such as:

- Serious transport accidents** (plane, train, motorway)
- Extreme weather - storms, flooding**
- Major crime/terrorism/public disorder**
- Explosion/fire/industrial accident**
- Toxic chemical spill/radioactive release**
- Shortages of essential supplies - water, food, power**
- Infectious disease outbreak**

The Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Health Trusts, Voluntary Agencies and the Utility Companies all have co-ordinated emergency plans in place. The aim is to save life, contain the hazard, protect the public and return to normality as soon as possible, but the task is made easier if the public also know what to do in an emergency.

Being prepared for a major emergency also means you can deal more effectively with minor ones. In most situations you will either need to seek immediate shelter from the threat or hazard or to move right away from it, so it makes sense to have a plan to do both. Useful steps you can take beforehand include:

- Make a list of important contacts such as family, friends and neighbours, your children's school, GP, veterinary surgery, utilities, your insurers and so on. Carry this in your wallet or handbag and keep copies handy at home, work and in the car.
- Arrange for a friend or relative out of your area to be the **family contact point** in case your family become separated during an emergency.
- Make up an **emergency pack** for home, work and the car (see opposite).
- Know how to turn off your gas, electricity and water supplies.
- Even if you listen to other stations, know how to tune into your **local radio station** for public safety information in an emergency.
- Check your insurance cover is up to date.
- If in a flood risk area keep a stock of empty **sandbags and sand**.

At home

Prepare an emergency pack containing:

- A battery powered radio (with local radio frequencies marked)
- Torch (with spare batteries)
- First aid kit
- A copy of your contact list
- Bottled water/canned drinks

Make an evacuation checklist of items to pack quickly if you are suddenly advised to leave your home. This list might include:

- Your emergency pack (above)
- Warm clothing
- Essential medication and personal items (glasses)
- Baby food, nappies
- Wallet, purse and bank cards
- Mobile phone and charger
- Pet carrier/collar and lead (unless possible to leave pet at home)

In the car

This may vary according to the time of year, but keep these items in the car as a basic emergency kit:

- Bottled water
- First aid kit
- Torch and batteries
- Cigar plug lead for mobile phone
- Sweets, long life snacks

- A blanket, warm tracksuit with woolly hat
- A waterproof coat
- Wellington boots
- Spare socks (can be used as gloves)

} All year round

} October to May

At work

Know the emergency procedures for your workplace thoroughly.

In some situations you might have to remain at your workplace for safety. Your building may have good facilities, but even so it could pay to think about what you would need if you had to stay overnight!